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Testimony before

Senate Committee on The Judiciary

Law Enforcement Officer Safety: Protecting Those Who Protect and Serve

July 26, 2022

“Thank You” Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley and other distinguished members of the committee

On behalf of law enforcement officers across the country, I am honored to appear before this Committee to speak on a topic that’s near and dear to heart – protecting police and our communities.

According to the FBI, 2021 marked the highest number of law enforcement officers murdered in more than two decades. Of the 633 line-of-duty deaths last year, 73 were felonious killings. That should come as no surprise to anyone, especially considering that “coordinated” efforts were used to undermine our police. As chants to “Defund the Police” got louder, more police officers died and their families were left to pick up the pieces.

The rise in “anti-police” sentiment has led to a rash of attacks on police officers nationwide. In 2021 alone, there were 86 premeditated “ambush-style” attacks on police. So far in 2022, there have been 35 and this trend does not appear to be slowing down anytime soon.

So, how did we get here?

The 2014 riots in Ferguson, Missouri gave rise to a new paradigm of violence against police under the pretext of Black Lives Matter.

Although many “good” people from churches, schools and inner-city communities just wanted to peacefully protest to end police-brutality, radicals and criminals took advantage of their vulnerabilities.

It didn’t matter whether the police were right or wrong, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) organization saw an opportunity to exploit “high-profile” incidents involving the police to fundraise and further their radical agenda.

For me, it was undeniable what Black Lives Matter was doing because they were pulling directly from the Black Nationalist playbook; which overlooked violent crime in the Black community, but magnified incidents involving police.

Growing up in the “inner-city” of Houston, Texas, I was familiar with the tactics used by Black Lives Matter because they were similar to the tactics used by Black Nationalists in the early 1990’s when I was teenager. The only difference was that Black Lives Matter used social media instead of a bullhorn microphone to amplify their message.

Some of the rioting tactics by these groups the early 90’s included: organizing protests late in the evening and encouraging people to wear dark clothing to camouflage their criminal behavior. They understood that police were limited in their response capabilities due to manpower, so they used diversionary tactics to distract the police to cause more damage (looting, violence, and destruction). They also knew how to use the media to manipulate the message and further their cause.

Sound familiar?

I warned about this threat early on, but no one would listen, even after the shooting attack on July 7, 2016 when five police officers including four from my department were ambushed and killed in Dallas, Texas.

By the Summer of 2020, Black Lives Matter protests had escalated into full-blown riots corresponding with the George Floyd murder. Realizing that police were at a disadvantage, other “fringe” anarchist groups across the country began waging attacks against police as well, especially in Minneapolis, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, and Kenosha.

The riots were simply uncontrollable, police agencies didn’t have the resources or manpower to deal with the mobs nor did they know who was friend or foe. Police were essentially forced into an unwinnable situation because the rules of engagement were imbalanced.

How has policing been impacted?

On June 5, 2020, the Washington D.C. mayor approved to have the words BLACK LIVES MATTER painted on 16th Street leading to the White House. The message ended with DEFUND THE POLICE. The “Defund the Police” message became the rallying cry for activists and radical groups across the country in protest of the George Floyd murder.

In response to the Defund the Police Movement, cities across the nation began cutting police budgets to show solidarity with the movement. The lack of support for police led to many police officers resigning, retiring and even withdrawing from police academies.

The Defund the Police Movement did more damage than anyone could imagine!

As violent crime spiked in inner-city communities, police agencies struggled to maintain their ranks. It created stress on the police officers and strained the agencies' ability to efficiently perform. Many agencies were unable to purchase necessary equipment or even hire new personnel, especially minorities.

Due to the high attrition rate, police officers were required to work extra shifts to compensate for the lack of manpower. The reduction in agency resources led to low morale and increased mental health issues for officers. The culmination of these factors overwhelmed police officers and unfortunately led to higher suicide rates.

The Defund the Police Movement is also responsible for the overcorrection by district attorneys in their refusal to prosecute criminals. Police officers nationwide expressed frustration with having to arrest the same offenders over and over again because of no bail initiatives and DAs refusals to prosecute.

On the other hand, those same DAs didn't waver in the imbalanced approach to prosecuting police officers for perceived use-of-force violations. Despite the presence of worthy cases for prosecution like Derek Chauvin, several police officers were indicted on criminal charges related to use of force following the George Floyd riots. This has unfortunately led to many police officers becoming reluctant to use force during violent protests out of fear of being prosecuted.

So, what's the solution?

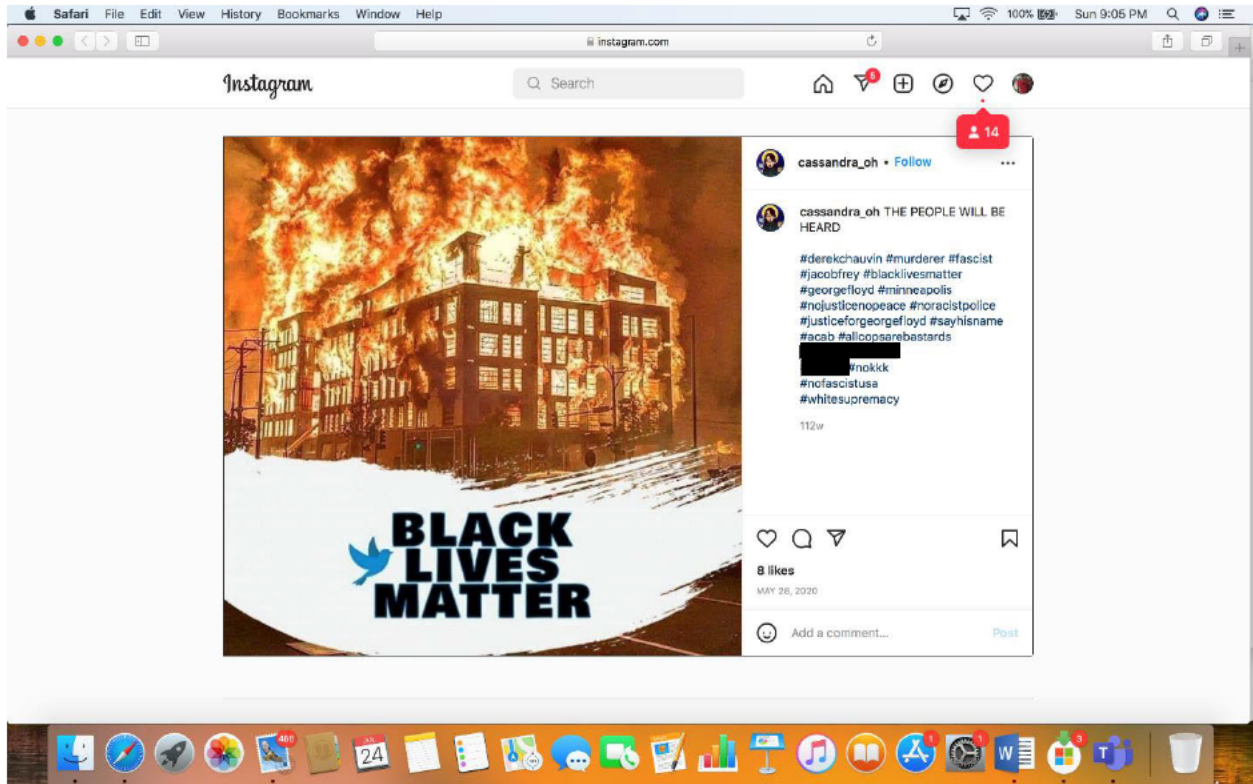
The Defund the Police Movement has set law enforcement back more than three decades - to a period where murder and violent crime were rampant and it was difficult to recruit minorities into the policing profession.

To fix this problem, the federal Government must:

- Re-establish legitimacy of the policing profession; send a clear message that “qualified immunity” for officers acting in good-faith will not be infringed upon; take steps to protect police from harassment such as: taunting, following police home, and violating their personal space which has led to many officers catching Covid and dying.
- Develop a comprehensive domestic terrorism policy that punishes behaviors defined by 18 USC 2331(5) – Domestic Terrorism.
- Use federal *Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act* (RICO) laws to prosecute organized groups that fundraise for the purposes of rioting and attacking American interests.
- As proposed by the Coalition of Safer Web in 2021, the federal Government must develop a social media “early-warning” system to monitor, flag and share threats against our nation's law enforcement and homeland security interests.
- Finally, to ensure that criminals are held accountable for murdering our police, the federal Government must develop a “prosecution referral system” that establishes federal jurisdiction for poorly adjudicated cases – similar to prosecution referrals for civil rights violations.

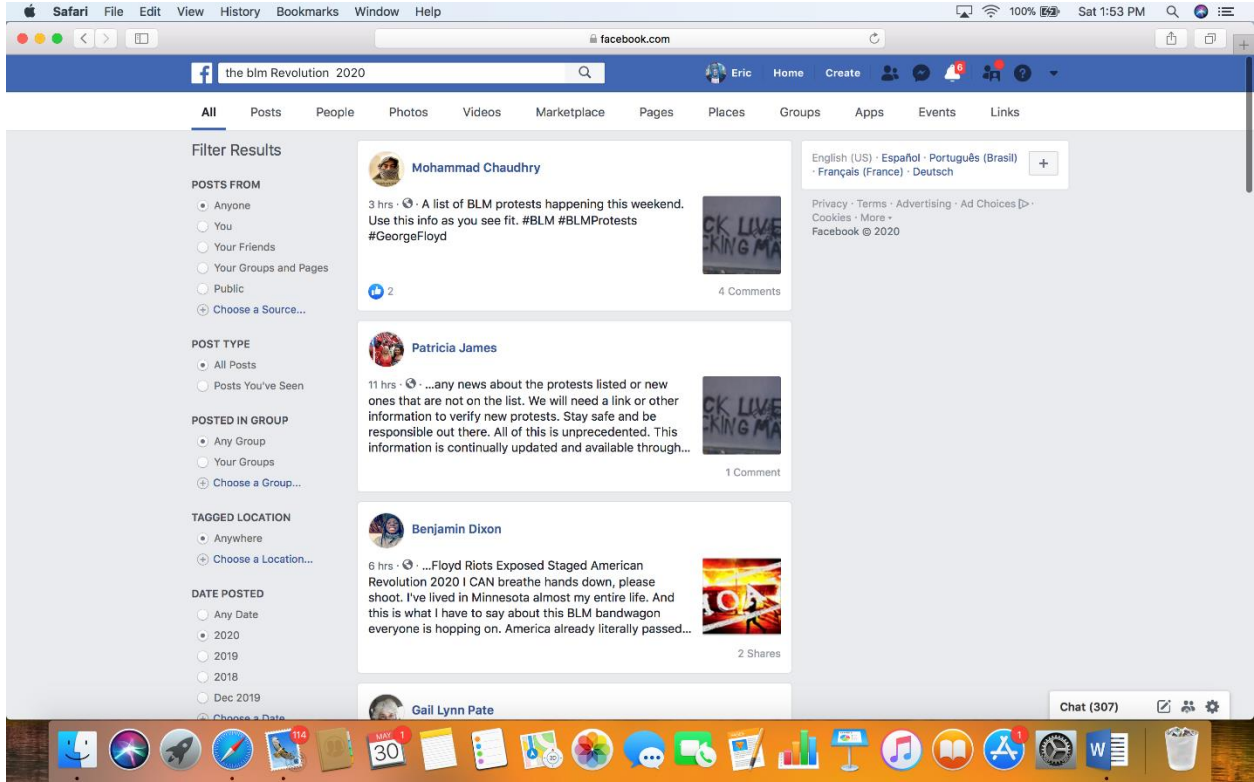
I look forward to responding to your questions. Thank you.

Honoring the Sacrifice of Fallen Officers

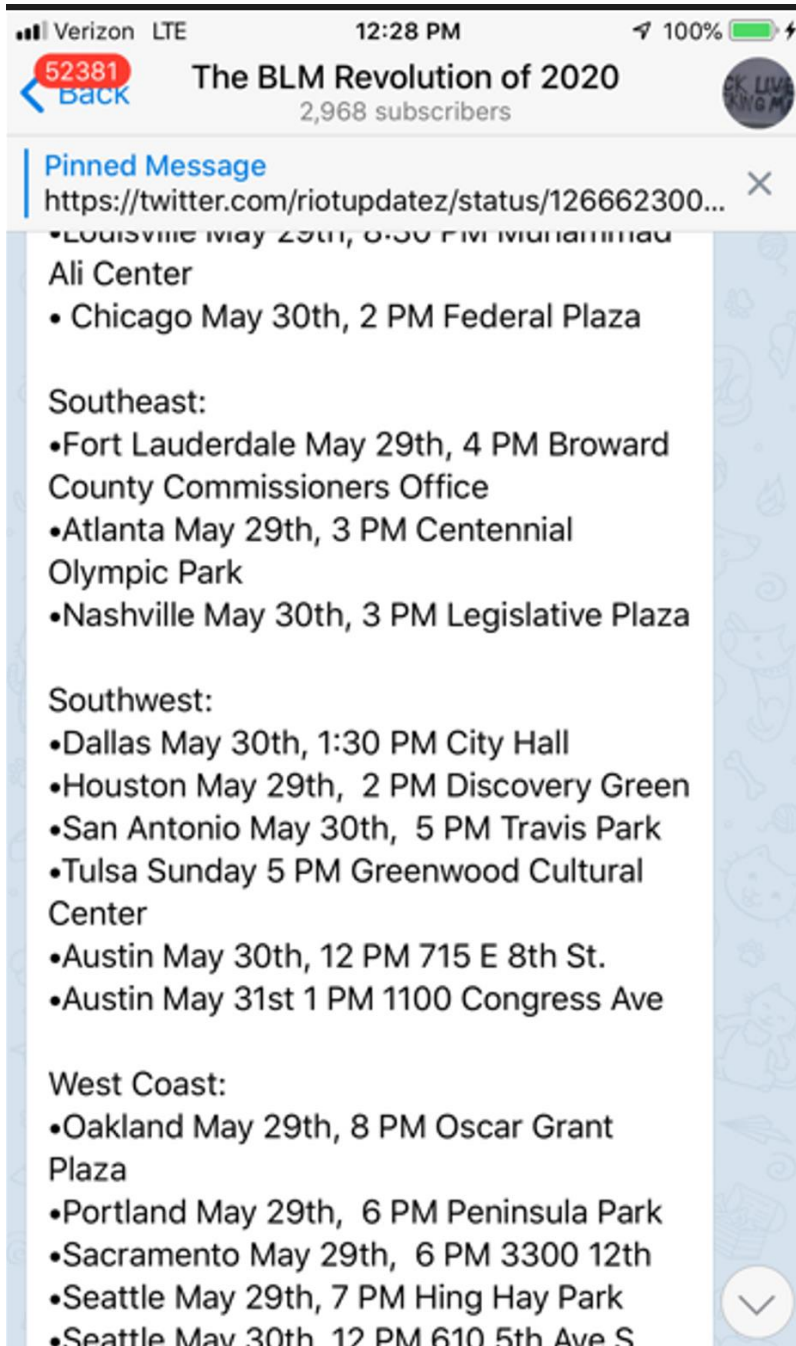


BLM meme Burning of Minneapolis Police Headquarters posted on May 29, 2020
Images provided courtesy of Coalition For Safer Web using GIPEC technology

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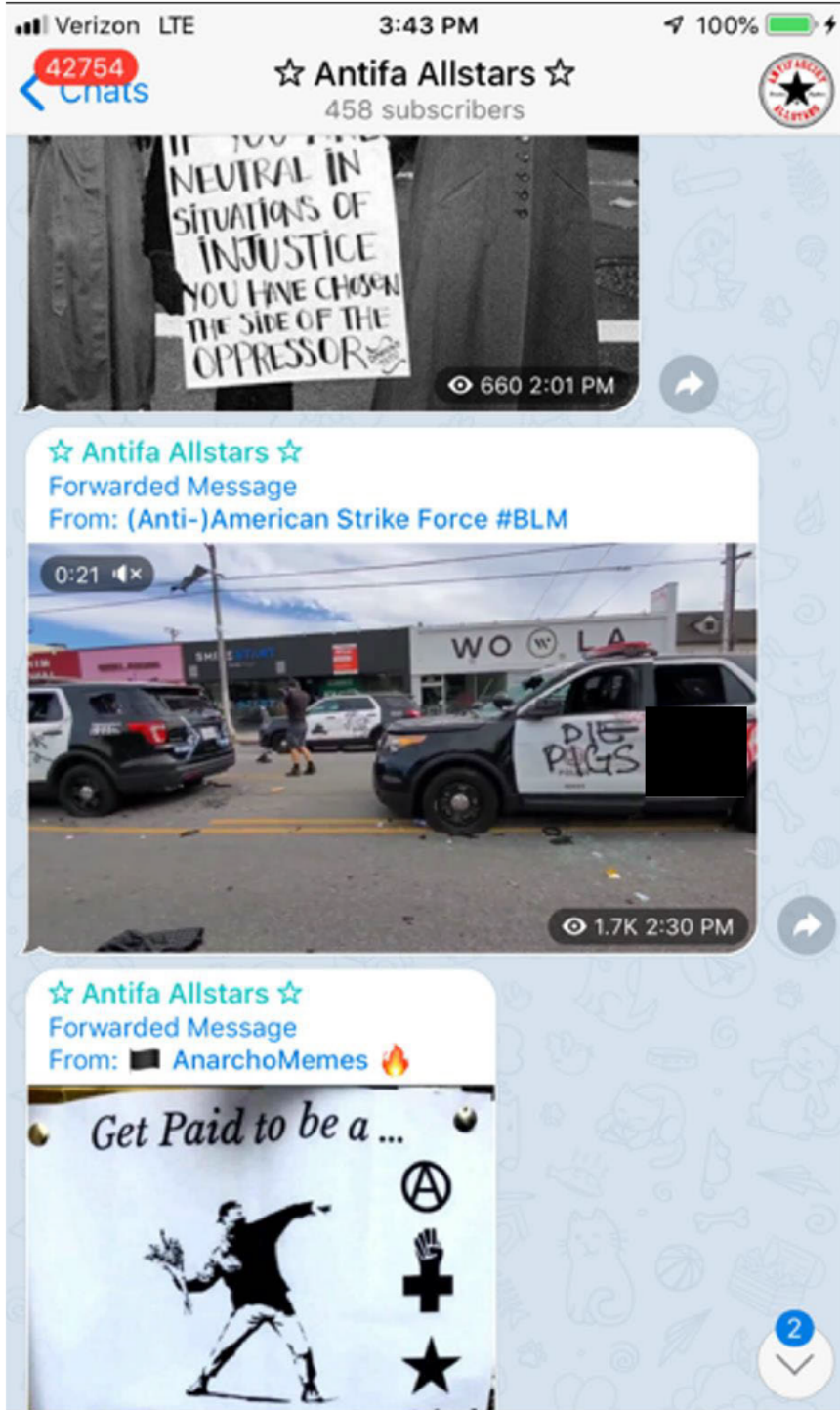


How BLM Protests for the George Floyd Riots were organized on Facebook- May 29, 2020
Images provided courtesy of Coalition For Safer Web using GIPEC technology



BLM Revolution of 2020- This is how these George Floyd Riots were organized the Last Weekend May 2020

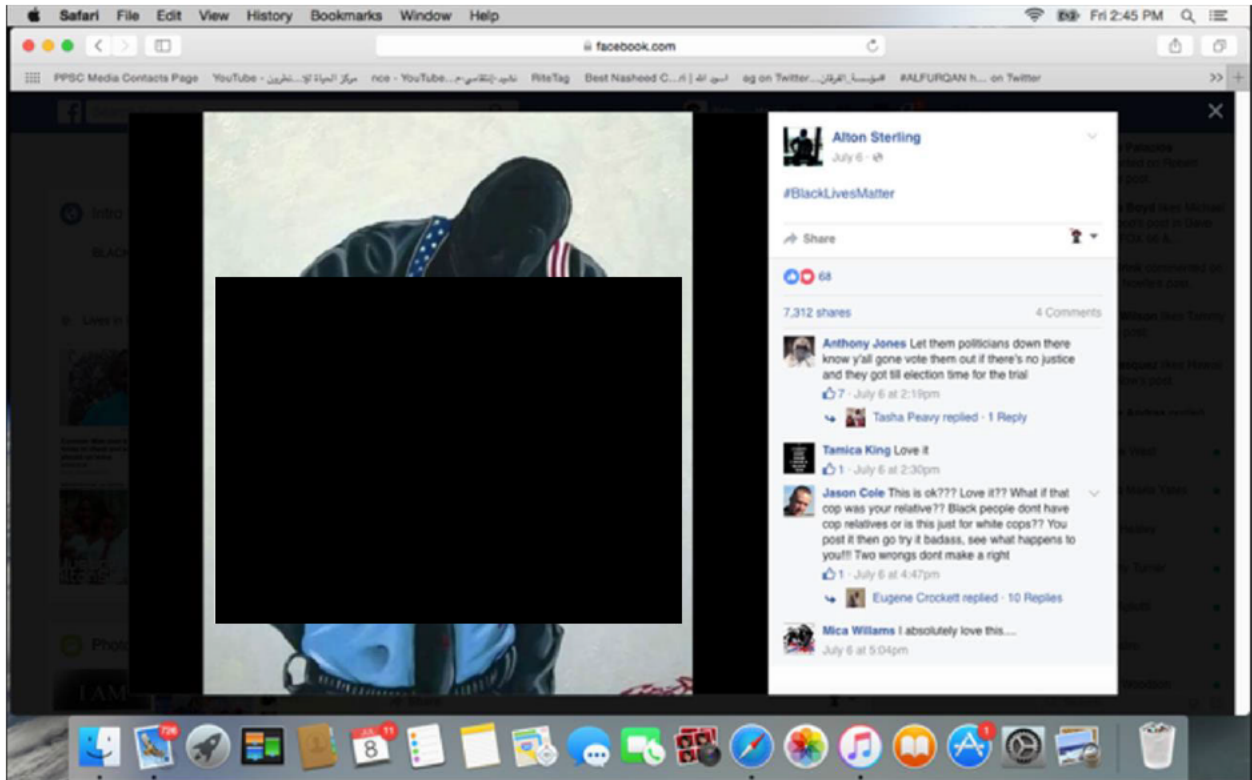
Images provided courtesy of Coalition For Safer Web using GIPEC technology



Photos of LA Police Cars on Melrose Ave. posted to Antifa Allstar Telegram Channel On May 30, 2020 using #BLM

Images provided courtesy of Coalition For Safer Web using GIPEC technology

Honoring the Sacrifice of Fallen Officers



Police Beheading Image posted to Facebook on July, 6 2016 the day before the Dallas Attacks from Facebook Account Alton Sterling... Image shared 5500 times before attack.
Images provided courtesy of Coalition For Safer Web using GIPEC technology