

From: [Sanders, Scott E.](#)
To: [CityManager](#)
Subject: RE: DMPD BRUTALITY
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:43:00 AM

[REDACTED]
I received your email and feel it is important to respond.

The City of Des Moines, including our Police Dept. support freedom of speech and in fact, the police are present at these events to in part protect the protesters. That said, laws must be followed. When laws are not being followed our police leadership must make quick decisions as to how to react.

You mention decisions to place the value of "idols" above the value of human life. I read that sentence two ways. First, I read that you take issue with protecting property over human life. That is not the case and in fact the example in which the police did not rush in to stop the destruction of the police car at Hy-Vee demonstrates that the police understand that at times de-escalation can work by doing nothing. It is a different situation when a business is being destroyed and looted. That is why the police needed to react with escalated force to regain control on Court Avenue and at Merle Hay Mall in those two incidents.

Second, I read that sentence to mean we should set aside our preference or ideal to have everything be peaceful and organized in protest situations. To that, I have witnessed and received reports by both police and media that demonstrate enormous amounts of accommodation to the protesters. We allowed the use of roadways in many instances without permits and often without any prior knowledge of routes which makes it very difficult to keep everyone including the protesters safe. We should consider ourselves fortunate no one was injured do to vehicle/pedestrian interactions. This aspect has to closely monitored and discouraged. That is why the event permit process exists. Our community expects that laws will be enforced. All the charges against protesters stem from incidents in which they either were asked to disperse or the protesters acted on their own in committing a crime. I have had numerous conversations with Law Enforcement on several of these incidents and believe them to be appropriate. I will not ask that charges be dropped.

Lastly, all the focus on the protests themselves takes away attention from the message and work that needs to get accomplished in rooting our systemic racism and inequities. Many reforms in police procedures and training have already occurred and will continue within our Police department. Let's get to the root of racial inequities involving economics, mental health, homelessness and drug addiction as the primary focus should not be crowd control tactics.

Respectfully, Scott Sanders

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gmail.com](#)>
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 4:05 PM
To: CityManager <CityManager@dmgov.org>
Subject: DMPD BRUTALITY

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello City Manager Scott Sanders,

I am writing to express my deep concern with events executed and escalated by DMPD regarding

protests in Des Moines, IA. I am a non-violent ordained clergy member in the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have been supporting efforts of racial equity and speaking out against police brutality. I work in a LVL 1 Trauma center in Des Moines as a chaplain and also serve part time in congregational settings. Over the last few months, I have seen first-hand the excessive force used by DMPD and Iowa State Patrol against protestors. Often, the escalation comes on the side of policing and protection of property that places the value of idols above the value of human life. I have been personally attacked with pepper gel, kettled, thrown down, arrested in my home, harassed, and stalked by DMPD officers in unmarked vehicles and not in uniform, as well as outfitted in full riot gear. I have seen Black activists, clergy, reporters, teachers, parents, children, doctors, nurses, and legal observers treated with inhumane violence and brutality on the streets of Des Moines, in community centers, and in their very homes by the police force in Iowa. It is time our elected leaders join us in calling out the absurdity of these actions and the brutality of these actions. It is time you use your power given to you by your constituents for good. I am requesting you work personally with John Sarcone to demand all charges against all protestors be dropped immediately, as well as all capital bans be dropped immediately. Your city is aching from the continued violent presence and rhetoric of the policing in this state against its own citizens. It is unethical, immoral, and abhorrent to be silent and allow this police state to continue without accountability. Please, do your duty and help us!

In Peace,

[REDACTED]