



# Human Right Violations in Santa Rosa California Policing the Black Lives Matter Protests

SONOMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

# Timeline of CHR Report

- ▶ 5/31/20 - 6/5/205 BLM related protests in Santa Rosa
- ▶ 6/15/20 meeting between protesters, CHR, Mayor Schwedhelm , Chief Navarro, County Supervisors– Restorative process format
- ▶ 6/23/20 Lawsuit filed against SR by Protesters: “The Santa Rosa Police Department officers are trained to act with restraint and did in fact act with restraint, using only such non-lethal force as was required after the peaceful demonstrations waned and some chose to become violent and engage in destructive behavior,” Assistant City Attorney Rob Jackson said in a statement. “The suggestion that peaceful protesters were targeted with violence or that the Santa Rosa Police Department acted with the intent to discourage the exercise of freedom of expression or peaceful assembly is simply not true.”

## Timeline of CHR Report

- ▶ 6/28/20 CHR Meeting with protesters – request for Report
- ▶ 6/30/20 SR City Council Public Comment by CHR Chair Smith promising Public Report by CHR of complaints of human rights violations during protest policing.
- ▶ Email from Chair Smith to Navarro & Schwedhelm re Report
- ▶ 7/11/20 CHR Report Published
- ▶ 7/12/20 email from Smith to Schwedhelm, Navarro, et al
- ▶ 7/14/20 request from Smith for SRCC hearing on CHR Report



# Timeline of CHR Report

- ▶ 7/17//20 Press Dem article: “Santa Rosa Police Chief Ray Navarro said the report was a flawed, one-sided account that did not reflect the chaos and violence his officers and other authorities confronted during late-night encounters with people who he said threw rocks and bottles at police and took over city streets with vehicle sideshows.”
- ▶ 8/26/20 CHR REPORT SCHEDULED for SR Community Advisory Board
- ▶ 9/18 Signed OIR Agreement
- ▶ Delayed to October at Public Safety Committee
- ▶ Delayed until December
- ▶ Delayed until now

# Protester Accounts Overview

- ▶ Excessive & indiscriminate force
- ▶ Teargas
- ▶ Kettling
- ▶ Disparate Enforcement against BIPOC Protesters
- ▶ Abusive & Sexually Harassing Treatment of Black Woman
- ▶ Over-policing protesters v. Under-policing Protest Attackers



# Protester Accounts

- ▶ Marqus “Redbear” Martinez
  - ▶ Sting grenade in the mouth
  - ▶ Standing peacefully with hands up in the air
  - ▶ Broken jaw, lost teeth
  - ▶ Reconstructive surgery
  - ▶ Plaintiff in Jail Yard Counseling Lawsuit against SCSO

# Protester Accounts

- ▶ Omar Paz - Latino
  - ▶ Aggressive searches of Latino young males by SRPD Officer
  - ▶ Black woman had weave pulled off her head by SRPD Officer and officers played soccer with it
  - ▶ Officer Anguiano roughing up Black female protester for protesting his groping of her
  - ▶ Lack of masks by officers



# Protester Accounts

- ▶ Nicole Jordan - African American
  - ▶ Unnecessary violence in arrest by 4 officers
  - ▶ Shoved her face away to prevent seeing badge
  - ▶ Ongoing injury to wrist



# Protester Accounts

## ▶ Anonymous Accounts

- ▶ Protester lifted in air and smashed to ground
- ▶ White protesters treated better by officers
- ▶ Refusal to provide badge #s & names
- ▶ Targeting of medics by officers
- ▶ Kettling of protesters
- ▶ Deliberate unmasking and coughing by officers on protesters

## Protesters v. Protest Disrupters

- ▶ Numerous accounts of Protesters receiving excessive and unnecessary force by SRPD
- ▶ Multiple accounts of SRPD refusing to fully investigate disrupters of protests, including people driving their cars at protesters trying to injure them
- ▶ Woman in White Car – numerous rumors of connection to law enforcement
- ▶ **PERCEPTION: DISPARATE TREATMENT BASED ON POLITICAL SYMPATHY WITH POLICE**

# PROTESTERS DEMANDS

- ▶ Independent investigation of SRPD officers involved in the allegations of protesters
- ▶ A ban on the use of military grade weaponry on the public
  - ▶ Ban on Teargas in Protests
  - ▶ Ban on use of 40 MM projectiles on protesters except to prevent imminent threat to life or serious bodily injury by a particular individual
  - ▶ Ban on explosive devices such as sting grenades in protests
- ▶ Firing and criminal investigations of the officers who perpetrated the abuse.