



OPERATION/OBJECTIVES:

Special Team: Crowd Control Unit (CCU)

Date/Time of Incident: 5/29/20-6/13/20

Location of Incident: Downtown San Jose, Sheriff's Office HQ, West Valley Substation

Incident Type: Crowd Control for George Floyd/Black Lives Matter Civil Unrest

- Training
- Call-Out
- Pre-Planned Event
- Pay-Job

PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

See attached rosters. This was multiple day operation involving numerous personnel/rosters.

SYNOPSIS:

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46 year old African American man, died in Minneapolis, Minnesota after Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for approximately 9 minutes. Onlookers took videos of the incident, which eventually were widely circulated. Former police officer Derek Chauvin was arrested and charged with 2nd degree murder. Similar conspiracy charges were subsequently filed against the other officers assisting former police officer Chauvin.

In the wake of Mr. Floyd's death, demonstrations and protests began in the City of Minneapolis against the use of excessive force by law enforcement. Initially these protests were peaceful; however they became violent when groups within the protestors began looting, rioting, committing arson, and other violent acts. The demonstrations and protests spread throughout the United States.

On May 29, 2020, demonstrations and protest began in Santa Clara County. Several protests eventually morphed into acts of violence against police and nearby businesses. Over several days, demonstrations, protests, riots, and other acts of violence continued.



The Sheriff's Office Crowd Control Unit (CCU) is committed to the protection of all Constitutional Rights, including 1st Amendment, by providing a space for this protest the right to assemble and the freedom of speech.

ALLIED AGENCY PARTICIPATION:

CCU was requested/deployed over the course of several days to assist the San Jose Police Department with large protests. On several occasions, San Jose Police requested County Mutual Aid. Los Altos Police, Campbell Police, Santa Clara Police, and the California Highway Patrol responded amongst numerous other agencies.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Given the current political, social, and medical climate in and around our jurisdiction, I foresee the need for multiple CCU response in the near future. The November Presidential Election, former Officer Chauvin's trial, and potential Covid-19 Public Health Restrictions could all potentially result in a multiple day/week response from CCU personnel. As such, several issues and recommendations were brought to my attention by CCU members during the course of this most recent incident(s).

Uniform and Equipment: Over the course of this multiday incident, numerous CCU members worked back to back shifts in a crowd control capacity. This required many hours in full CCU equipment while addressing large crowds while at times it was 90 degrees plus outside.

Roster: The CCU roster has been transient in recent years. As a result the roster is under constant revision. I recommend a minimum year commitment be instituted for members. This will provide for more consistent training and team continuity.

DEBRIEF:



Saturday May 30th, 2020:

On May 30th, 2020, at approximately 1530 hours, I responded to Sheriff's Office Headquarters to stand by as the CCU Commander for further developments pertaining to the on-going civil unrest.

CCU was not activated. At approximately 2000 hours, I responded to the San Jose Police Incident Command Center to meet with and assist patrol units with their crowd control response/aid to SJPD. Numerous patrol units, under the supervision of _____ responded to assist protests in the area of San Jose City Hall. We responded to the area of Fourth Street at Santa Clara Street to assist SJPD with crowd control.

Prior to our arrival, SJPD personnel had been struck by thrown objects and assaulted with a potato gun. Upon our arrival we donned our gas masks and reinforced a skirmish line in Fourth Street just south of Santa Clara Street. SJPD deployed CS gas to disperse a violent crowd on Fourth Street and the skirmish line containing Sheriff's Office and SJPD personnel cleared Fourth Street down to San Fernando Street. One deputy discharged his 40mm Less Lethal launcher at a suspect while on the skirmish line. Headquarters patrol ensured the deployment of the projectile was properly documented.

Patrol personnel and myself remained in downtown San Jose to assist with crowd control until approximately 0100 hours on May 31st. No Sheriff's Office personnel were injured.