



## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Lansing Police Department  
120 W. Michigan Ave. – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Lansing, MI. 48933

For Immediate Release  
June 1, 2020

Contact: Director Robert Merritt  
Phone: 517-483-4805  
Email: [robert.merritt@lansingmi.gov](mailto:robert.merritt@lansingmi.gov)

### Protest / Riot - Update

The City of Lansing and its residents were devastated as a result of the May 31, 2020, protest that turned into a riot in the downtown area. The riot resulted in the loss of thousands of dollars of damage to private and public property.

What began as a peaceful protest, abruptly turned after a few hours when a group of rioters attempted to assault a female in a vehicle on the 100 block of S. Washington Ave. Michigan State Police Troopers responded to protect the female and were circled by rioters that began throwing bottles and rocks at them. Lansing Police Department (LPD) officers responded to assist and safely evacuated the Troopers and female. Rioters refused to disperse from the area and overturned the female's car, smashed the windows and set fire to it. The rioters also overturned another vehicle in the area and began smashing the windows of multiple businesses, looting, assaulting police with rocks, bottles, and started several dangerous dumpster fires.

Based on the totality of the circumstances surrounding the riot, including the intentional damage to property and its related life-threatening activity after proper verbal warning, the dangerous rioters refused to cease their criminal activities and disperse. Therefore, consistent with usual and customary police practice, LPD dispersed chemical agents in attempts to dissuade ongoing, intensifying and dangerous criminal activity, to protect public and private property from felonious assaults, looting, arson and most importantly to protect the lives of innocent citizens. After police deployed the chemical agents, several arrest were made and many protestors in the area dispersed.

**\*\*More\*\***

The Lansing Police Department headquarters sustained several broken windows but suffered no other property damage. Mayor Schor issued a citywide curfew in effect in Lansing between 9 P.M. and 5 A.M. June 1, 2020. LPD officers maintained their composure and restraint throughout the riot and arrested a total of 13 people for various charges including; arson, damage to property, vagrancy, and resisting arrest.

LPD officers continue to assess the damage caused by rioters and are working with business owners. LPD officers will maintain a visible presence in the downtown area with MSP and the National Guard. The LPD requested for anyone with suspect information regarding any crimes during this riot are requested to call the Lansing Police Department at 517-483-4600.

\*\*\*\*