

2/22/2018

Page 1

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

EVENING COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, February 22, 2018 3:00 p.m.

Detroit Public Safety Headquarters

1301 Third Street

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48203

1 COMMISSIONERS:
2
3 LISA CARTER, Chairperson (Dist. 6)
4 EVA GARZA DEWAELSCHE, Commissioner At-Large/Vice-Chairperson
5 WILLIE BELL, Commissioner (Dist. 4)
6 ELIZABETH BROOKS, Commissioner At-Large
7 DARRYL BROWN, Commissioner (Dist. 1)
8 SHIRLEY BURCH, Commissioner (Dist. 3)
9 WILLIE E. BURTON, Commissioner (Dist. 5)
10 WILLIAM DAVIS (Dist. 7)
11 CONRAD MALLETT, JR., (Dist. 2)
12 DERRICK SANDERS, Commissioner At-Large
13
14 GREGORY HICKS, Secretary to the Board
15 ROBERT BROWN, Executive Manager

16
17
18 REPRESENTING OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE:
19 CHIEF JAMES E. CRAIG
20 DEPUTY CHIEF TODD BETTISON
21
22
23
24
25

1 Detroit, Michigan
2 February 22, 2018
3 At or about 2:58 p.m.

4

5 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Good afternoon. Welcome to
6 the Detroit Board Police Commissioners meeting. My name is
7 Lisa Carter, chair of the Board of Police Commissioners,
8 representing District Six. At this time I'd like to thank
9 you all for attending today's meeting. And we will have
10 the invocation by Pastor Nathan Johnson.

11 (At 3:03 p.m., invocation given)

12 COMMISSIONER CARTER: At this time we'll start
13 with introductions with Commissioner Davis.

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: William Davis, District
15 Seven.

16 COMMISSIONER SANDERS: Derrick Sanders, At-Large.

17 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Shirley Burch, District
18 Three.

19 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Elizabeth Brooks, At-Large.

20 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHE: Eva Garza Dewaelsche,
21 vice chair, At-Large.

22 COMMISSIONER BELL: Willie Bell, District Four.

23 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Darryl Brown, District One.

24 COMMISSIONER MALLET: Conrad Mallett, District
25 Two.

1 COMMISSIONER BURTON: Commissioner Burton,
2 District Five.

3 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you commissioners.
4 At this time, Mr. Hicks.

5 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, you have a quorum.

6 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you. At this time,
7 commissioners, you have before you the agenda for February
8 22, 2018. Is there a motion for approval.

9 COMMISSIONER MALLET: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER DEWAELESCHE: Support.

11 COMMISSIONER CARTER: It's been moved and
12 supported that we approve the agenda for February 22, 2018.
13 Is there any discussion?

14 Those in favor?

15 THE BOARD: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Those opposed? The motion
17 carries.

18 At this time, commissioners, you have before you
19 the minutes from February 15, 2018. Is there a motion for
20 the approval.

21 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Move adoption.

22 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Support.

23 COMMISSIONER CARTER: It's been moved and
24 supported that we approve the minutes from February 15,
25 2018. Is there any discussion?

1 Those in favor?

2 THE BOARD: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Those opposed?

4 Motion carries.

5 At this time, Mr. Hicks, would you please
6 introduce the rest of the BOPC staff.

7 MR. HICKS: Just prior to introducing the staff,
8 I do want to indicate that the audio visual work tonight is
9 being done by Media services. Donna Williams is the court
10 reporter for this evening. And immediately to my right is
11 Mr. Brown. And then I direct your attention to the first
12 row. Mrs. Johnson is of Fiscal. Mr. Warwick, who's legal.
13 Mr. Blossom, who is Media Outreach. Ms. White, who is the
14 policy -- with policy. And then I want to skip over real
15 quick to Acting Personnel Director Ms. Bridgett Lamar,
16 who's sitting in the second row on the other side of the
17 room. And then go back to, of course, Mr. Akbar who will
18 introduce not only himself but also the balance of his
19 staff that's present.

20 MR. AKBAR: Good afternoon. I'm Interim Chief
21 Investigator Lawrence Akbar from the Office of the Chief
22 Investigator. It's my honor to introduce my staff. I'm
23 going to start first with Supervising Investigator Angel
24 Cromwell, Supervising Investigator Abdula Nelson, Senior
25 Investigator Madrigel, Investigator Carolyn Nichols,

1 Investigator Coleman, Investigator Stanton, Investigator
2 Coulter, Investigator Tiffany Stewart, Investigator Makiba
3 James, Investigator Roslyn Banks, Investigator Daniel
4 Callaway, Investigator Neely. And last but not least,
5 Investigator Hiller. And we do have people upstairs.
6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, sir.

8 At this time I'd like to introduce the deputy
9 chief. The chief was here for a brief moment. I don't
10 know if he's coming back, but Deputy Chief Bettison is
11 sitting in for him.

12 DC BETTISON: Deputy Chief Bettison for the
13 record. The chief had to step out momentarily, but he will
14 be back shortly.

15 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay. Any other staff
16 you'd like to introduce?

17 CHIEF OF POLICE: Okay. For the record, I'm
18 Deputy Chief Bettison, and at this point I'll have our
19 staff introduce themselves. We'll start with Second Deputy
20 Chief Grant Ha. Lisa Jones, Agency CFO. Sherry Paris,
21 executive manager branch unit. Captain Kurt Walbor
22 (Phonetic) Homicide. Captain Tucker SBU. Captain Conway
23 Petty, chief neighborhood liaison. Sergeant Gerald Hewitt,
24 office of the chief.

25 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you.

1 DC BETTISON: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CARTER: At this time if there are
3 any elected officials or representatives, please stand and
4 give your name for the record. If not, we will move on to
5 my report.

6 On behalf of the Board, I want to express our
7 concern and support for fallen and injured officers. I
8 would also ask that the chief's office during his remarks
9 -- during your remarks to provide us with any additional
10 information related to fallen -- injured and fallen
11 officers.

12 The Mayor is expected to give his budget
13 presentation to the city council at 10:00 p.m. tomorrow,
14 Friday, February 23rd.

15 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: 10:00 a.m.

16 COMMISSIONER CARTER: What did I say?

17 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: 10:00 p.m.

18 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Oh, 10:00 a.m. I'm sorry.
19 Budget hearings will begin the following Monday. We have
20 received the schedule for the hearings. The department and
21 the BOPC are scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2018. I
22 understand that we have also received questions from the
23 council's legislative research section, and our staff will
24 be preparing responses to those questions. Is that
25 correct, Mr. Hicks?

1 MR. HICKS: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay. Today we have one
3 presentation. Our agency CFO, Officer Lisa Jones, will
4 join us to make a report on the second quarter for the
5 current budget year. You have in your packet,
6 commissioners, a copy of the presentation. I will also
7 note that questions related to second quarter were supplied
8 to the CFO. I am hopeful that the presentation will cover
9 many of these questions. As you know, the budget is a
10 spending plan. We're now in the third quarter of the
11 fiscal year. Today's report should cover the first six
12 months of the prior fiscal year or the second quarter.

13 The major reason for asking our questions is for
14 the CFO to provide us with an assessment of how well the
15 department is meeting its spending targets and if we have
16 received sufficient revenues to support our spending plan.
17 One major concern is how we are managing police overtime.
18 Management of police overtime is also a strong concern of
19 the chief. And I will refer the Board to a copy of the
20 questions submitted to the CFO in your packet to guide you
21 during this presentation.

22 Toward the end of the meeting, we'll have oral
23 communications from the audience. So if you would like to
24 speak to the Board, please make sure that you print your
25 name on a card -- on a speaker's card. The cards are

1 located in the back of the room on the table, or you can
2 obtain one from Mr. Brown. And make sure he gets it before
3 the beginning of public comments.

4 And with that, we will move right into the
5 resolutions that we have for this week. Retired Police
6 Officer Sandra Brooks. And I'm going to ask that
7 Commissioner Davis please read the resolution.

8 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Okay, where should I read
9 it?

10 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Do it right there. Is
11 officer -- is the officer here?

12 MR. BROWN: I don't believe so.

13 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Resolution honoring retired
15 Police Officer Sandra S. Brooks.

16 WHEREAS Sandra Brooks was appointed at the
17 Detroit Police Department on February 17, 1997. Upon
18 graduating from the Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer
19 Brooks began her career at the Sixth Precinct Patrol
20 Operation Section (POS); and

21 WHEREAS Officer Brooks faithfully served at the
22 Sixth Precinct, Northwestern District, and reassigned to
23 the Sixth Precinct where she remained until her retirement;
24 and

25 WHEREAS Officer Brooks was the deserving

1 recipient of a Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition
2 Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, the Super
3 Bowl XL Recognition Award, and numerous letters of
4 commendation from citizens, and superiors; and

5 WHEREAS Office Brooks has tirelessly served the
6 Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and
7 surrounding communities for more than 21 years. Her
8 professionalism, commitment to public service, integrity
9 and dedication has been a credit to the Detroit Police
10 Department. She is highly respected by her peers as the
11 consummate professional.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

13 RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police
14 Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the
15 Detroit Police Department, award this resolution in
16 recognition of the lifelong commitment to public safety by
17 Police Officer Sandra S. Brooks. Your exemplary service to
18 law enforcement has been an invaluable asset to the
19 department and merits our highest regards.

20 We salute and congratulate you, Police Office
21 Sandra S. Brooks.

22 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Davis.

24 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: I move the resolution.

25 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Second.

1 COMMISSIONER CARTER: It's been moved and
2 supported that we adopt the resolution honoring retired
3 Police Officer Sandra Brooks. Is there any discussion?
4 Those in favor?

5 THE BOARD: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER CARTER: The motion carries. At
7 this time I'm going to ask that Vice Chair Dewaelsche
8 please read the resolution for retired Police Officer Jerry
9 Reedy Randall.

10 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHE: Is Police Officer
11 Randall here? I just want to make sure. I'll read it from
12 here.

13 This is the resolution honoring retired Police
14 Officer Jerry A. Reedy Randall.

15 WHEREAS Jerry Reedy Randall was appointed to the
16 Detroit Police Department on August 11, 1997. Upon
17 graduating from the Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer
18 Randall began her career at the Second Precinct Patrol
19 Operation Section (POS); and.

20 WHEREAS Officer Randall faithfully served at the
21 Second Precinct, Eighth Precinct (POS), Patrol East, Fiscal
22 Management, Office of the Chief, Domestic Violence,
23 reassigned back to Patrol East, Police Medical and Fleet
24 Management where she remained until her retirement; and.

25 WHEREAS Officer Randall was the deserving

1 recipient of a Major League Baseball All-Star Recognition
2 Award, the Rosa Parks Funeral Recognition Award, the Super
3 Bowl XL Recognition Award, and numerous letters of
4 commendation from citizens, and superiors; and.

5 WHEREAS Officer Randall has tirelessly served the
6 Detroit Police Department, the citizens of Detroit and
7 surrounding communities for more than 21 years. Her
8 professionalism, commitment to public service, integrity
9 and dedication has been a credit to the Detroit Police
10 Department. She is highly respected by her peers as the
11 consummate professional.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT.

13 RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police
14 Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the
15 Detroit Police Department, award this resolution in
16 recognition of the lifelong commitment to public safety by
17 Police Officer Jerry Reedy Randall. Your exemplary service
18 to law enforcement has been an invaluable asset to the
19 department and merits our highest regards.

20 We salute and congratulate, Police Officer Jerry
21 Reedy Randall.

22 Move to adopt the resolution, Madam Chair.

23 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Support.

24 COMMISSIONER CARTER: It's been moved and
25 supported that the we adopt the resolution for retired

1 Police Officer Jerry Reedy Randall.

2 Is there any discussion? Those in favor.

3 THE BOARD: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Those opposed?

5 The motion carries.

6 Thank you. At this time I'm going to turn the
7 mic over to Deputy Chief Bettison for the chief's report.

8 DC BETTISON: Thank you. To the Chair, I'll
9 start out speaking on crime. Current year-to-date with our
10 homicide, we're down 3%, as you can see with your report.
11 When it comes to sexual assaults, that's the category that
12 we're up in, 6%. All other part one crime we're trending
13 down. Robbery, which is, you know, crimes that really
14 drives fear in our community, down 23%. Carjackings, which
15 is a subcategory of robbery, we're down 12%. Aggravated
16 assaults, down 3%. In our nonfatal shootings, we're down
17 25%. And total violent offenses, we're down 8%. Our
18 closure rate for the category of homicide, we're still
19 right there with the national average of 60%.

20 Per the Chair, in regards to status of officers
21 and, you know, where we are with officers being injured in
22 the line of duty, you have a report before you as well.
23 You have Police Officer Justin. If I'm pronouncing it
24 right, Marroquin. Off work disabled, recuperating at home.
25 Suffered injury in the line of duty. Also Officer Robert

1 Kovak recuperating at home as well. He was the officer
2 that was injured from the Fourth Precinct on the freeway
3 with the car accident when we had that bad ice storm that
4 day. Anthony Brown is still off work. Waldis Johnson
5 still recuperating. He suffered approximately a year ago a
6 nonlife-threatening injury, a shooting to the head. But
7 he's still recuperating. James Kisselburg recuperating at
8 home. Benjamin Atkinson did return back to work,
9 restricted duty. Police Officer Eric Smith, who sustained
10 a gunshot wound to the leg approximately two weeks ago in
11 that barricaded gun situation where three officers were
12 shot, including a DPS officer, and the three fatalities --
13 Officer Smith is recuperating at home. I went to see him a
14 couple of times. So his spirits are up, and he's doing
15 well. And then Officer Jovarka Tyus is an officer that
16 also suffered scrap metal with that incident when Officer
17 Smith was shot in the leg. So he's recuperating at home as
18 well.

19 And just want to give a lot of -- just a big
20 thank you and praise to the community and to this Board for
21 the support that you all gave to this department during
22 this trying times over the past couple of weeks where we
23 experienced a lot of violence towards members on our
24 department. I saw the majority of you there. You know, I
25 didn't see -- it was so many folks at Officer Weather's

1 home where I couldn't see everybody, but I did see your
2 support. The chief received phone calls from the City
3 Council. And just from the community in general,
4 everywhere I went I got a lot of, you know, we're praying
5 for you. And I saw many of you in the audience too who
6 actually attended Officer Weathers' funeral on Tuesday. So
7 that was a tough time for us. But, you know, one of the
8 things that when the Chief read a post that Officer
9 Weathers had stated; you must push harder; you must grind
10 harder; you know, I'm not where I want to be, but I will --
11 you know, I'm summarizing. But one of the things he said
12 is, and his mother also said, you got to keep it moving.
13 So in the spirit of Officer Weathers, we're going to stay
14 strong, and we all are going to keep it moving. So that's
15 my theme for 2018 dedicated to Officer Weathers. I'm going
16 to keep it moving. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, sir. And thank
18 you for your comments.

19 Commissioners, you have any questions for Deputy
20 Chief Bettison? Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER DEWAELESCHE: Madam Chair, no
22 questions, just a comment. I appreciate receiving this
23 report. I know it's a new report. We just started getting
24 it last week. And it does help us to know, you know, the
25 status of all of the officers that are out.

1 And I also appreciate the additional information
2 that's being provided on the graduation class dates. It's
3 good to have that in advance too so that we can attend. I
4 highly recommend that the Board members try to attend a
5 graduation once in awhile, because it will really touch
6 your heart to see how committed our new officers are to
7 coming on the job. And so, you know, I'm glad we have
8 these dates in advance. Thank you so much.

9 DC BETTISON: Yes, ma'am.

10 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Commissioner
11 Dewaelsche.

12 And as per usual, we will continue to keep those
13 families and the DPD families in our thoughts and prayers.
14 Thank you.

15 At this time we will have presentation -- the
16 budget report from DPD Fiscal second quarter from
17 Ms. Jones.

18 MS. JONES: Good afternoon. I'm Lisa Jones, AC
19 CFO Police. And you have before you a presentation for
20 today. I wanted to start by introducing the -- some of our
21 new team members in the Fiscal Operations. In our
22 Centralized Timekeeping Unit Sergeant Helen Hunter retired,
23 and Sergeant Ray Sidy (Phonetic) has joined us as a
24 supervisor for the Westside Precinct in Centralized
25 Timekeeping. So we welcome him to our team. And in the

1 Grants unit, Kelly Russell, the former executive manager,
2 retired. And we have welcomed Shanice Ferris (Phonetic) as
3 our new executive manager to the team. So we're happy to
4 have them join our supervisory team in Fiscal.

5 In terms of the activity year-to-date, Fiscal
6 Operations has stabilized after a year of transition and
7 data cleanup, including several large scale special
8 projects. We were able to submit our documents, our
9 year-end documents, timely for our contribution to the CAFA
10 activities which did get submitted on time on behalf of the
11 city. So we're pretty proud about that. In addition, DPD
12 has submitted its FY19 budget request, and the mayor's
13 recommendation is scheduled to go before the City Council
14 on Monday.

15 The department is operating within budget
16 overall. The department is on schedule to replace or
17 upgrade aging equipment and implement several initiatives,
18 as planned in the FY18 Budget. In addition, the department
19 has reallocated resources to offset additional overtime
20 cost that are mostly due to specialized operations,
21 increased calls for service, and rapid deployment.

22 The Grants Unit has continued progress towards
23 tracking program performance by working closely with the
24 project directors to evaluate spending and outcome. The
25 department was awarded nine annual grants for the new

1 fiscal year beginning October 1st. In addition, the team
2 maintains a schedule of upcoming grant opportunities and
3 will submit applications in the coming weeks.

4 The Department's forfeiture revenue has remained
5 consistent with prior year activity. The department
6 continues to benefit from working closely with local and
7 federal law enforcement agencies to participate in casework
8 that crosses jurisdictions. These funds continue to
9 support the work of Police Forfeiture Unit.

10 The department has nine ongoing capital projects,
11 several of which are nearing their final phase of
12 completion. As a result, much of the department has been
13 impacted by upgrades in technology, fleet and facilities.

14 Any questions?

15 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioners, you have any
16 questions for Ms. Jones.

17

18 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Is she done?

19 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair, I think that
21 initially we talked about several concerns. And I would
22 ask Mr. Hicks to raise some of those concerns that we
23 listed in the package here in terms of second quarter
24 report contents.

25 MR. HICKS: Yes. Thank you. Through the Chair,

1 what you have in your packet is a list of questions that
2 was submitted to the agency CFO. I would want to draw your
3 attention to really just two of them in the interest of
4 time. The first one is really more organizational in terms
5 of the kind of reports in which it's reasonable for you to
6 receive. One of the things that we requested was
7 essentially a walk-through or a what is loosely referred to
8 as a variance report. And the nature of a variance report
9 is that you have the budget that was approved for that
10 particular year. Then you have the next column over is
11 likely to be the actual expenses that you incurred. And
12 then you have a calculation between the budget that was
13 approved and the expenses that were incurred. And any of
14 those calculations will likely say that you expended over
15 the allocation or you're under. That third column then
16 puts you in a position where you can make a determination.
17 And this is something, I'm sure, that the chief's office is
18 doing everyday. And that is whether or not -- with the
19 funds that remain after the quarter whether or not you have
20 enough money to go till the end of the year. Because
21 that's basically what you're trying to go do; look at the
22 budget as it was proposed, the actuals that were expend,
23 and then having some assurance whether or not you will have
24 enough funds in order to go to the end of that year,
25 assuming that the spending patterns stay the same and so

1 forth. So it was our view that that type of report is more
2 productive for you as a Board to receive and to kind of
3 walk through.

4 That brings us to the second concern in which I'd
5 just like to highlight. And that was -- if you recall,
6 there was some -- I think it started off as a news report
7 where the chief was mischaracterized on the question of
8 overtime, saying elimination overtime. The chief made it
9 very clear that he was not talking about the elimination of
10 overtime, he was talking about department's responsibility
11 to manage overtime. And so as that is not only the chief's
12 concern but also a concern of the Board, it would think --
13 you would think in such a variance report that you would
14 then see a line, as you would see many lines, but you would
15 see the lines of overtime where you could then make a
16 judgment on how far we are in pace or off pace with
17 overtime. And as the CFO mentioned in her report, is that
18 what has apparently been some shifting of funds in order to
19 cover some overtime, if I heard that correctly. And I
20 don't know to what degree that may have occurred. But,
21 again, a report like that would give you some idea through
22 the varying line items that are a part of the overall
23 department's budget; how we tend to either go above or
24 below our spending targets and whether or not we can make
25 those spending targets or that spending pattern last till

1 the end of the fiscal year. So that's the nature of what
2 we think we asked for in the context of the seven
3 questions. And then some of the other questions were
4 specific, but that was the general main focus of that
5 request.

6 MS. JONES: Thank you for the clarity, Mr. Hicks.

7 So what I would like to do is provide you with
8 the monthly budget to actual report that we have with the
9 Office of Budget, and I think, you know, walking you
10 through that in a smaller session first.

11 MR. HICKS: Yes.

12 MS. JONES: Because there is -- you know, we meet
13 with the Office of Budget on that monthly. So I can
14 provide the most recent months report to you all and
15 continue to provide it on a monthly basis thereafter.

16 Unfortunately, you know, I am the broken record
17 when it comes to explaining, you know, our report; the
18 status of our reports. And so one of the issues that was
19 recently identified was there was some system issues that
20 happened back in October and November that caused our
21 reports to show more funds available in some cases or
22 obligations, again, that needed to be reversed or
23 corrected. So my understanding is our systems consultants
24 have been working on that so that we can get more accurate
25 reports. But that has been a part of the conversation with

1 the Office of Budget is being able to back into what our
2 actual numbers are. Because the reports, unfortunately,
3 haven't been giving us those numbers. So --

4 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, if I could also just
5 add. And this is really the workings between the full
6 Board and the committee. I know that the monthly reports
7 are generated, of course, monthly. So the way in which
8 we're currently organized is that those -- let's say eight
9 of the monthly reports should probably go to the Budget
10 Committee, and then a quarterly report would come in front
11 of the Board. You know, so it would be quarter one,
12 quarter two, quarter three, and then the year-end, as
13 opposed to trying to manage through the Board here a
14 monthly report, a variance report, every month when the
15 details and the people who are tracking it more than anyone
16 else is the Budget Committee. Okay? All right, thank you.

17 MS. JONES: No problem. And part of the work
18 that we do this time of year as we wrap up budget season is
19 we start looking ahead to year-end. And that includes
20 cleaning up some of our financial reports and making sure
21 that, you know, charges have been assigned to the correct
22 object codes and commodity codes. So we're starting that
23 process. So we're starting that process. We're also
24 identifying areas to make sure that we have funding
25 available to, you know, finish the fiscal year as planned

1 per Mr. Hicks's question about that. So it's an annual
2 exercise that we do. But with that in mind, our initial
3 assessment is that we will end the year within budget.

4 One of the things I also wanted to note on the
5 overtime is that 25% of the overtime expenditures in the
6 police's budget are reimbursed. And, unfortunately,
7 they're charged to our budget, but they are reimbursed on
8 the revenue side. So that's important to note, I think, in
9 the overtime discussion; because I think that gets missed.

10 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair, the council
11 raised that issue about overtime too. I know the chief has
12 spoken to that, and you just clarified about the
13 reimbursement. But where are we to date as far as overtime
14 level? Are we over or under? Give us some idea.

15 MS. JONES: So if you run an initial report in
16 the system, it's going to show that we have exceeded our
17 budget. But, again, we've worked with the Office of Budget
18 to reallocate resources. I mean, you know, the chief can
19 talk about some of the initiatives that go on in the
20 department that require additional overtime activity. You
21 know, we did our best to plan for our overtime activity
22 when we submitted last year's budget. But as you know, a
23 lot changes in that period. So as we're solidifying FY19
24 right now, there will be a lot to change once that budget
25 goes into effect in July. So, again, we've done our best

1 to plan accordingly. We've worked with the Office of
2 Budget to identify surpluses in other areas that can help
3 offset those costs. So, again, we don't anticipate to end
4 the year in a deficit in overtime.

5 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair, I have one more
6 question or concern. We all are concerned about the
7 underpaid officers. Do you anticipate five or ten years or
8 less that we can compensate these officers that reflect
9 their courageous job that we all know they're definitely
10 more deserving in terms of starting out, you know, the five
11 year mark whatever that is. I know the mayor made some
12 adjustment. I know the chief is on that platform again.
13 But at some point in time, I would hope that we could lobby
14 strongly to see how can we get these officers more properly
15 compensated in terms of their salaries and benefits. And
16 benefits. So I know you're not the person to champion
17 that, you know. But I just want to put it on record that
18 we are concerned. We know our first responders, not just
19 police and fire, EMS are underpaid in the city of Detroit.

20 MS. JONES: And I do know that that's on the
21 chief's radar and the mayor's radar. And, you know, I
22 certainly will take that back to the CFO as well.

23 COMMISSIONER BELL: And I think the community
24 needs to echo that too; is let our city officials know that
25 that is an area that we are really concerned about. And it

1 should be on the front burner of citizen's hearts about the
2 welfare. These two funerals to me, it's just been
3 devastating the impact on this department and on this city.
4 But one of the areas we can address is that the community
5 needs to be respond to lobby strongly in reference to the
6 salary of these officers. I can't say that loud enough.
7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER SANDERS: Through the Chair.

9 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Sanders.

10 COMMISSIONER SANDERS: On that note of police
11 officers, I know I don't mind if I got to pay more property
12 taxes if we can get them a raise. I just want to put that
13 out there. Because I know it'll be other people of the
14 city of Detroit with the property tax to add on to it. And
15 I think something needs to really be said and put out there
16 for the police officers to be compensated. Because they
17 put their life out there. You've seen what happened these
18 last two weeks, and it was tragic. You know, and you got
19 to look at they have families. Those families should be
20 taken care of, as simple as that. And I don't know why we
21 waited so long to really try to push this. But just like
22 in Florida those kids talked about the 17 shootings, I
23 think we need to talk about giving the police officers and
24 the first responder more even if we do got to go up on our
25 property taxes. Because like I said, I don't mind. I just

1 think that needs to be talked about.

2 CHIEF CRAIG: And my only response is, I didn't
3 just start talking about increasing police officers
4 salaries from the day I came through the door. The mayor
5 is committed, as I am. We recognize that we want our
6 police officers to be at what's described as market.
7 Anytime a much smaller municipality who does less work
8 makes more money that's a problem for me. And it's
9 certainly a problem for every man and woman who wears a
10 badge and puts their life on the line each and every day.
11 So I think we're all saying the same thing. I appreciate
12 your support. But we absolutely want to see our police --
13 especially in the city, they probably have more challenges
14 than just about any place else in America. So I appreciate
15 the support for that.

16 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioners, any other
17 questions?

18 I have one question about the grant activity.
19 You listed nine grants have come in. I'd like to know the
20 grants and the actual amount of the grants if that's
21 possible.

22 MS. JONES: Yep.

23 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay.

24 MS. JONES: We submitted our report recently.
25 We'll update that if there's been any changes, and we'll

1 make sure you have a copy.

2 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay, thank you. Any other
3 questions commissioners?

4 Thank you, ma'am.

5 MS. JONES: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I have one question.
7 Chief Craig, thank you again for your services.

8 CHIEF OF POLICE: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I would just like to know
10 what are some of the initiatives you can do or we can do to
11 help the officers to receive better pay? And I'm saying
12 what as the ordinary citizens, besides going to the
13 "politicians"? Because Detroit now has increased in
14 population -- will some of these funds come from the
15 government as a whole because of Detroit repopulating now?
16 Remember when we used to be a million people?

17 CHIEF CRAIG: I remember a time, and I know
18 Willie Bell probably remembers a time -- he's got a little
19 more time than I have. But Detroit was at one point one of
20 the highest paid police departments in the country.

21 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes, sir.

22 CHIEF CRAIG: In addition to that, there was a
23 time when we had I think at one point -- Willie, you might
24 know better -- I think we had as high as sixty-five hundred
25 police officers. And while the city was a million five, a

1 million six, our per capita staffing numbers were very
2 high. Of course that's changed dramatically. When you
3 look at staffing levels on the west coast compared to say
4 the east and the midwest, even my old department, Los
5 Angeles Police Department, is one of the smallest police
6 departments in the country when you talk about per capita
7 employment. You're talking about a city of four million,
8 and they have ten thousand. And and when you look at
9 Chicago, half the size of Los Angeles, and they have twelve
10 thousand police officers. New York, of course much larger,
11 has thirty-eight thousand. And so there are a lot of
12 dynamics.

13 You know, when we look at -- and I know we've had
14 a discussion about overtime. You know one of the things
15 with the confidence that the community has, it's been
16 restored. You know, our calls for service have increased
17 substantially. I don't have those numbers in front of me,
18 but as compared to even two or three years ago, we're
19 handling more calls for service. You've heard a lot of
20 recent comments about even our calls for service in the
21 area of handling those individuals suffering from mental
22 illness. Every month we handle anywhere upwards of five
23 hundred calls involving the mentally ill. Translates into
24 six thousand calls. Time consuming? Certainly. Very high
25 risk calls, particularly when you look at the calls we get

1 associated with those who are armed. And we usually handle
2 per month maybe one hundred to a hundred twenty-five calls
3 of persons suffering from mental illness who are armed. So
4 a lot of challenges. I wish I had the right answer for
5 you. As I indicated earlier in my remarks that, you know,
6 certainly the mayor is committed. He recognizes -- I
7 certainly recognize the importance of making sure our
8 police officers are committed.

9 In terms of as our city continues to grow,
10 there's more investment in this city. I mean, the
11 prevailing thought is, you know, our police officers would
12 make more money. They do have secondary employment
13 options, but the core salaries do need to be higher. And
14 we recognize that. But, again, I think what you're doing
15 today by keeping this issue in the forefront, getting
16 citizens to stand up and voice that we want to make sure
17 our police officers -- and while -- what's interesting
18 about the city and this police department is our ability to
19 despite the challenge, despite the dangers and the pay,
20 we're probably doing better in recruitment than most
21 places. I mean, it's amazing. You know, that's why I all
22 the time say if you create an environment of excitement
23 where people want to work here. You know, it's not always
24 the police officers. I made a lot of money in Los Angeles.
25 But the key is it was an environment of excitement. There

1 were many opportunities in that agency.

2 So as you sit as the oversight, you know, I hope
3 you would support going forward the necessity of creating
4 that environment and also continuing to support us on
5 creating opportunities. And opportunities look like
6 promotions. You know, we didn't have the rank of
7 detective. We didn't have the rank of corporal. We didn't
8 have the rank of neighborhood police officer. And
9 factually I hadn't given a promotional exam in eight years.
10 And so the organization becomes very stagnant.

11 So now the question I've been getting -- and now
12 that we're going through a transition with the Human
13 Resources director, the one thing I want to vigorously
14 push, we're facing every two years having promotional
15 exams. We really need to move forward and ensure that we
16 reach that commitment of promotional exams of lieutenant,
17 sergeant and the rank of detective. And that's what we're
18 looking for. And I think that helps tremendously, because
19 people know there are opportunities awaiting.

20 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Now, Chief, see you said
21 just what I was thinking about. We have so many
22 educational institutions right here in the city. The
23 commissioner here loves to -- she's interested so much in
24 the recruiting. And what you did in the beginning of the
25 year -- I don't know if you remember this -- was a part of

1 you marketing, recruiting police officers. You have your
2 picture on a big 10 x 11 sheet, and it was in our church.
3 I wonder how many churches out there actually have this
4 sheet inside the church to promote young people, I'd like
5 to become a police officer. I'd just like for you to do
6 something -- the officers may be better to do a survey to
7 get that sheet of paper with your face on it saying that
8 you can become a police officer. Because what I see,
9 you're training -- through the training of your men, we've
10 been told that Detroit educates and trains the best
11 officers in the world. Now, but what they do when they
12 graduate they leave. They go somewhere else. So we have
13 got to market where to keep them here. With all this
14 excellent training that you do we can't lose them. So what
15 can you do about that?

16 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair. We've done a
17 lot about that. And, again, we talk about this environment
18 of excitement. I have an officer right now who left to go
19 to a suburban department for personal reasons; to care for
20 his mom. But he was gone for a month and he wants to come
21 back. We're going to allow him to come back.

22 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Okay.

23 CHIEF CRAIG: So sometimes there are personal
24 reasons. Sometimes it's pay. I have found that pay is not
25 the sole reason. Because I don't care what department you

1 work, you know -- and then surprising with all of the
2 tragic situations we've seen over the eighteen months
3 involving police officers, I have police officers laying in
4 hospital rooms with bullets in their leg who said I want to
5 go back to work. That's the kind of police officer you
6 have.

7 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

8 CHIEF OF POLICE: They want to get back out on
9 the street so they can continue to serve this community.
10 Now I'm not suggesting that they don't think about the
11 hazards of the job. But anytime that bell goes off there's
12 a critical incident, and they're running towards the
13 danger. Let's talk about that incident just not even a
14 week and a half ago involving a barricaded suspect --

15 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

16 CHIEF CRAIG: -- who killed three women, shot two
17 police officers and then shot an off duty DPS officer.
18 Those officers want to continue to do their job.

19 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Because they're committed.

20 CHIEF CRAIG: And they're committed.

21 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That's why.

22 CHIEF CRAIG: And so it says a lot about the
23 quality of police officers that we have here in Detroit.
24 But new officers coming in -- and again, recruitment has
25 not been one of our problems. They understand the dangers

1 associated with being a police officer. And really it's
2 not just Detroit. Look at what happened in Ohio -- or
3 Maryland just yesterday. We had an officer going to a
4 domestic incident -- or he was off duty in his own
5 neighborhood, a place where he considered safe -- to help
6 someone else off duty; and he gets killed in a domestic
7 situation off duty.

8 COMMISSIONER BURCH: We just have to strive,
9 Chief, just to encourage you to do more and more. But
10 we're behind you. But as we -- all the commissioners have
11 said, they deserve a better pay. That's bottom line. They
12 really do.

13 CHIEF CRAIG: And through the Chair; I don't know
14 how much more I can do. I mean, I haven't had a vacation.
15 And I probably need one right about now. So maybe I'll
16 take that vacation. Then when I come back, I can continue
17 to do more and more.

18 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: I just have one statement.
19 These police officers that are in training are passionate.
20 My grandson is one. I did not recruit him. But he kept
21 saying, I want to be a police officer. Ex-Marine. I want
22 to be in Detroit where most of my family is. He is now in
23 the police academy. I had -- I did not want to say
24 anything about it. But I just want to say this; my heart
25 is full, because I take my job seriously. And there was no

1 way, no matter how much it might hurt that something might
2 happen to him that I would say, no, do not be a police
3 officer. He's passionate about being one. And that's what
4 we do when we recruit. We're looking for people who are
5 passionate. We hope they don't go anyplace else. But if
6 they do, it came from Detroit. So thank you, Chief Craig.

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: My grandson can't say
9 enough about the academy he's in, the people he's met.
10 He's tired all the time, but he is really, really enjoying
11 what he's doing and working hard. So thank you.

12 CHIEF CRAIG: You're welcome. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Dewaelsche.

14 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHE: Madam Chair, I just
15 want to make a comment. You know, in listening to the
16 commissioners and to the chief, the issue of population was
17 brought up. We have a U.S. census that is coming up in
18 probably less than two years. There was just a meeting
19 today that I was lucky to find out about and attend. And
20 it was conducted by the Michigan Nonprofit Association.
21 They got a grant from Kellogg or Kresge, I'm not sure, but
22 to organize the nonprofit organization so that they can
23 begin to learn about how we can get our communities
24 counted. And I can tell you that a lot of what we're
25 talking about; resources, funding for city services are

1 going to depend on what our population is. And so I just
2 want to put that out there that, you know, if you're
3 involved with churches, nonprofit groups, we need to start
4 talking about counting people and how we're going to bring
5 our community out to be counted. Because what they've
6 indicating at this consortium of agencies is that the
7 groups that are not being counted -- and I probably don't
8 have to tell people here -- are minority groups, immigrant
9 groups, and young children are not being counted. And so
10 we've got to help with that whole effort. And I know that
11 it'll have a positive impact on our city. So I just want
12 to put that out there. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: And I just want to add one
14 thing if it's okay, Chair. My grandson came from
15 Washington DC. He'd rather be a policeman in Detroit than
16 in Washington DC, and he is not moving back. So I just
17 want to clarify all of that.

18 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, commissioners.
19 Any other comments, commissioners?

20 Chief, we missed you earlier, so if you have any
21 comments you'd like to make about anything.

22 CHIEF CRAIG: I'm not certain, Madam Chair, what
23 -- I know we probably talked about crime.

24 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Yeah.

25 CHIEF CRAIG: Certainly you know in the aftermath

1 of everything that's been going on, certainly with the
2 school incident in Florida, I just want to reinforce that
3 our team has done a phenomenal job. Just not since
4 Florida, but even long before that. I can't tell you the
5 number of threats that we receive as it relates to schools
6 and our response. This team just responds in a relentless
7 way. And when this most recent threat came, I would tell
8 you that not only did they respond, but a determination was
9 made quickly that the suspect involved in that school
10 threat lives outside the city. That was not a deterrence.
11 They continue to follow up. Particularly when the outside
12 city, which I won't name, didn't really respond. But they
13 continued their response, finding out that the person made
14 a threat from a business place in Detroit. That person has
15 been arrested.

16 And so when we see some of the things that failed
17 in Florida -- not that we won't make mistakes, and this is
18 certainly not pointing blame -- we take it very seriously.
19 Because we know that like the situation in Florida, I mean,
20 how many clues were given in advance that nobody responded
21 to. And so one thing that certainly was telling -- so
22 police officers get the information. There's no response.
23 Then the suspect goes in, and within seven minutes this
24 carnage. We also know there was an armed sheriff on
25 campus. Not certain why he didn't intercede this violent

1 act. Not certain if he was even on the campus where the
2 shooting was taking place at the time. But those are
3 things that have to be asked and answered.

4 One of the things I wanted to also reassure you
5 and one of the things that I really enforce with our
6 command staff in light of this as a reminder, because we do
7 train for active shooters, we cannot wait for SRT to
8 arrive. We must go in and we must mitigate the threat. If
9 there's an active shooter situation, our officers
10 understand and know that they run towards the threat, not
11 away, and they don't wait. Because those seconds are
12 precious.

13 One of the concerns I had at our barricaded
14 suspect about a week ago, week and a half ago, we learned
15 that some of our officers were pinned down by this active
16 shooter. And it took an hour before we could go in and
17 initiate rescue efforts. It was my direction that while I
18 was happy that the injuries to the officers were not as
19 severe, but what if they were more severe? And so the
20 expectation is that we don't always have the luxury of
21 waiting for SRT. We understand they have armored
22 protective vehicles. We need to go in, and sometimes we
23 make decisions that put our officers directly in harms way.
24 But that's the job. That's the job. And as hard as that
25 decision is, I have had to make those decisions throughout

1 my career that I know sometimes I'm asking officers to do
2 the unthinkable. But it's about public safety. And if not
3 us, who? And so sometimes they have to go in and mitigate
4 a threat knowing that they're putting their lives in
5 immediate peril.

6 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHÉ: Madam Chair, I have a
7 question. I'd like to ask the Chief what he thinks about
8 the president's comment regarding arming teachers in the
9 schools.

10 CHIEF CRAIG: Well it's interesting that you --
11 through the Chair you asked me that question. I think
12 schools are soft targets. I think churches are soft
13 targets. And there's no secret that I've taken a position
14 on armed citizens. However, it's a practical one. Not
15 everyone should have a gun. Not every teacher should have
16 a gun. And I said it to Channel 7 -- I said, you need to
17 get my statements right. I said there's a vetting process
18 that should happen. And through a vetting process --

19 So let's say hypothetically we have a teacher or
20 a school administrator who maybe served in the armed
21 forces, who has no criminal history, not suffering from
22 mental illness who is trained. Maybe that's someone who
23 could be armed. Maybe a teacher who goes through the
24 training who is responsible, a very significant vetting
25 process.

1 Because as I indicated in my remarks earlier,
2 when there is an active shooter -- I didn't say if, but
3 when there is one -- these shooting incident statistically
4 take anywhere between four and six minutes. Response time
5 in most police departments is what, seven, eight, nine
6 minutes before the first unit arrives there. I also use a
7 comparison when 9/11 happened and American planes were
8 hijacked, what we did was we offered to some of the pilots
9 they would be armed. You can't arm every pilot.

10 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Right.

11 CHIEF CRAIG: You know, you got to go through a
12 very rigorous background check. So that's one issue. The
13 other thing I think we're missing, and I think the
14 president did address, and it needs to happen when you talk
15 about individuals who purchase firearms. People who
16 purchase firearms, we need to know if there's any history
17 of mental illness. I recognize the HIPAA laws. But when
18 you talk about someone purchasing a firearm we need to
19 know, is there a history? We also need to know -- because
20 it may not be documented in medical records -- we also need
21 to know whether or not that person has had a number of
22 contacts with law enforcement. And in those contacts, was
23 it something in those contacts that suggested there was
24 some mental illness? Those persons should not be allowed
25 to purchase firearms. Those persons shouldn't be allowed

1 to be granted a CPL. So that's kind of my position on it.

2 I take soft targets. I have been on record
3 saying as far as the NFL in not allowing off duty police
4 officers to carry their firearms in those sporting events.
5 I think it's wrong. I disagree with it. But that's the
6 policy they've made. And when you talk about venues like
7 sporting events with large number of peoples; if you had an
8 active shooter, it might be that one off duty officer that
9 will mitigate that threat before on duty officers arrive on
10 scene. And while they do have a small contingent inside of
11 the stadiums, that still may not be enough.

12 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Yeah, I have one question.
13 Is there an age limit that a young person can purchase a
14 gun? Or can anyone, fifteen, fourteen, purchase a gun?

15 CHIEF CRAIG: I think there's some conversation
16 about eighteen. I know when I started the Detroit Police
17 Department I was nineteen years old. I believe my mother
18 had to buy my bullets. Eighteen-year olds can be hired by
19 the Detroit Police Department, and they can have possession
20 of a firearm. They just can't buy -- I think the law says
21 you have to be twenty-one years old to purchase the
22 ammunition for the weapons. So I've not given that a lot
23 of thought. I know that maturity is a factor. But, again,
24 we do hire police officers at eighteen. And I think it
25 really goes through a very thorough, rigorous background

1 investigation of whether this person should be allowed to
2 carry a firearm, whether it's concealed or otherwise.

3 COMMISSIONER BROOKS: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Burch, you
5 have --

6 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Thank you, to the Chair and
7 to Chief Craig. I'd just like to ask regarding the shooter
8 with the seventeen killed, how did the young man purchase a
9 gun at that age? And my question is, are there a lot of
10 bootleg shops where you can go and buy a gun? But if he
11 wanted to buy that gun which was a gun that would only be
12 used by the military, how did that person sell that gun to
13 that person, and have they investigated who that person is
14 that sold him the gun?

15 CHIEF CRAIG: Well I'm not privy to all the
16 dynamics of the investigation. I don't know the laws of
17 the state of Florida. Only what you know, what we know
18 from reading the paper, the gun was not a fully automatic
19 military style weapon. It was semi-automatic. So that's
20 one issue. I don't know the laws of Florida. So I really
21 --

22 COMMISSIONER BURCH: But here in Detroit, do we
23 have bootleg shops that --

24 CHIEF CRAIG: Well I'll just speak -- through the
25 Chair, I'll be candid. What I'd like us to talk about and

1 what I've also said, we talk a lot about gun control, but
2 we don't talk about crime control. How do we keep guns out
3 of the hands of criminals? How do we keep guns out of the
4 hands of individuals suffering from mental illness? That's
5 the kind of gun control I'd like to talk about; specific to
6 the individuals who are criminals.

7 That's just like -- let's use an example, a
8 vehicle. We know that terrorist -- suspects like to use
9 vehicles as weapons. We don't suddenly say well let's just
10 take cars from people because they're being used as
11 weapons. I'm not taking this subject lightly. But what I
12 am suggesting is we need to have laws on the books to deal
13 with individuals, especially ex-felons, in possession of
14 guns.

15 Why is it that in Wayne County -- and this is
16 coming from the mouths of those ex-felons -- who feel more
17 comfortable possessing a weapon in Wayne County than they
18 do in Oakland and Macomb County? I know some hate me
19 saying that, but let's just talk about what's real. We got
20 to start having real conversations and stop tap dancing
21 around it. We talk about, well Chief, you know you talk a
22 lot about the mentally ill, what are your police officers
23 doing to address the mentally ill when they have contact?
24 We need to have more training for them. No, we don't.
25 What we need to do is find a way to get sustained

1 treatment. The funding was stripped in 1992 here in
2 Michigan.

3 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yeah, we know.

4 CHIEF CRAIG: And the police officers that were
5 around, like Willie Bell then, knew that the call loads for
6 those suffering from mental illness skyrocketed. Why?
7 Because it transferred from the mental health professionals
8 no the criminal justice system.

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That's right.

10 CHIEF CRAIG: And you go to Benny Napoleon's
11 jail, he will tell you 70%, 80% of his inmate population is
12 suffering from mental illness. So is it okay for us as a
13 society to criminalize the mentally ill? Because that's
14 what we're doing. Because left untreated --

15 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That's right.

16 CHIEF CRAIG: -- if left untreated they're going
17 to re-offend.

18 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Correct.

19 CHIEF CRAIG: I can tell you story after story.
20 You may remember a year ago, 2017, Seventh Precinct
21 responded to a disturbance call at a hotel on Jefferson.
22 At that hotel they saw the suspect. He began to run away
23 from the police. They tried to investigate. They chased
24 him for a very short distance. Very short. He turns
25 around, removes a nine millimeter pistol, and he fires a

1 number of rounds at the officer. Fortunately, they were
2 not struck by gunfire. They respond using deadly force.
3 He suffered nonlife-threatening injuries. His parents
4 responded to the scene, mother and father. I remember,
5 because I was at that scene. And I had a conversation with
6 his mother. His mother said to me, I am not mad at Detroit
7 Police Department. I am mad at the system that continues
8 to fail my son. That speaks volumes.

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Right.

10 CHIEF CRAIG: And if you talk to some family
11 members who have family members that are suffering, they
12 are not being treated.

13 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That's right.

14 CHIEF CRAIG: You want to talk about what a
15 crisis is in this country. This is not just a Detroit
16 thing, this is a national thing. We need to do better.

17 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I just want to bring this to
18 you, and then I'll stop. I commend -- Number 11 is where I
19 reside under Commander Leach. Commander Leach has put
20 together a security seminar that many of the same people
21 out here can do the same thing. But I think he's the first
22 to do it. The seminar is to teach church leaders, the
23 pastors and the leaders, how -- like you said, if an active
24 shooter comes in the church, we're just like sitting ducks.
25 Nobody knows what to do, so you begin to panic. I just

1 wanted to know if you knew about -- I know you know,
2 because you know everything about what Otis do. But I want
3 you to know this flier is available, Chief Bettison, and
4 it's going to be held free at the Bel Air Luxury Theater
5 February 28th. So I think that's a good start. All of the
6 Board members have it.

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, we've been doing
8 active shooter training in church before now. It didn't
9 just start with this. I mean, I applaud the initiative. I
10 do --

11 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes.

12 CHIEF CRAIG: -- but we've been doing it. In
13 fact, we want to expand active shooter training in other
14 places that are considered soft targets.

15 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Right.

16 CHIEF CRAIG: I think that's a conversation we
17 need to continue to have. Because that's what terror
18 suspects --

19 COMMISSIONER BURCH: -- look at.

20 CHIEF OF POLICE: -- and individuals who wish to
21 do harm, they know that the police are going to take seven
22 or eight minutes to get to a location.

23 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Any other questions,
24 comments, commissioners?

25 Thank you, Chief.

1 CHIEF CRAIG: You're welcome. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER CARTER: At this time are there any
3 standing committee reports or ad hoc committee reports?

4 COMMISSIONER BELL: If ad hoc wants to go first.
5 I'm going to just speak to the policy. If not, Madam
6 Chair, I just want to indicate that the policy committee
7 met under Ms. White's leadership this afternoon. And we
8 should be reporting out in the next two or three weeks with
9 sharing our concerns in the policy to the Board. Then we
10 will schedule a board meeting on that particular matter. I
11 want to thank the committee for coming out. I thank
12 Ms. White for that type of interaction. We're on schedule,
13 and we're going to convene in March in terms of sharing
14 with the Board, and the full Board will have it.

15 I also, if you'd be so kind, Madam Chair, to
16 speak to black history month briefly. I want to lift up
17 Frank Anderson Blount. And he's a Detroiter. Graduated
18 from Cass Tech back in the day. He joined the police
19 department in 1850 -- 1950. And one of those trailblazers
20 from the Detroit Police Department. And he rose through
21 the ranks to become the first executive deputy chief for
22 the in 1975, making the highest ranking black on the
23 Detroit Police Department at that time. During his career
24 he established the scooter patrol that interacts with the
25 school system. And he was a commanding officer. And he

1 went on to -- unfortunate in that time frame Frank had to
2 retire because of activities that Mayor Coleman A. Young
3 regretted later on that he accepted his resignation. And
4 we know the history of that FBI investigation. Nothing
5 materialized. But Frank Blount was a legendary police
6 commander, Executive Deputy Chief. The first. And he went
7 on to Wayne State -- not Wayne State -- Detroit Public
8 School System. But for those who need to know, NOBLE
9 (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement) officers,
10 he was one of the founding members of that after
11 interaction with the Justice Department in 1976. He came
12 out of that meeting and he said, we can do better; and he
13 brought black executives across the country and created
14 NOBLE as we know it today.

15 And for those who know about the Winter Olympics,
16 Frank Blount was one of the founding members of the Jim
17 Denning Ski Club; the first African American ski club in
18 the United States of America. And that's unique of Frank
19 Blount who is deceased. But his legacy lives on.

20 He was a type of Commanding Officer, if he drive
21 by and he see that you're out of order on walking a beat,
22 Frank was frank and blunt. You would get a good dressing
23 down. But he was a policeman's policeman, and a person I
24 head a great deal of respect for in terms of his career. I
25 just want to share that with you in terms of black history

1 month in lifting up Frank Anderson Blount who was the first
2 Executive Deputy Chief, the highest rank that you could go
3 at the time under Coleman A. Young. And he would have been
4 chief, we all know that, except for all the other
5 activities. But he was a trailblazer, and just I want to
6 share that with you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the chair, I'd like to make
8 one short comment and step out for a minute. But I wanted
9 to say this. As we're all talking about black history
10 month, I think it's fitting. I want to first acknowledge
11 the African American women of the Detroit Police
12 Department. I think as a major city under -- starting with
13 First Assistant Chief Stair, and some of the other many
14 talented African American women in this organization, we
15 probably have more in leadership positions than any other
16 major city in the country.

17 But I also want to acknowledge former Police
18 Chief Ella Bully-Cummings. I remember when I was out in
19 Los Angeles, and she was the first female chief of the
20 Detroit Police Department. And every chance I get I just
21 want to acknowledge her, because she certainly set the tone
22 for so many of our young African American leaders that sit
23 in this organization today. So thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Madam Chairperson, on the
25 subject of Frank Blount, one of the original partners that

1 Frank Blount had was my father. They rode squad car
2 together. My father also with Frank was one of the people
3 who established the Jim Denning Ski Club. Also Michael
4 Blount, Frank's son, was a longtime member of the Detroit
5 Police Department, and I think retired with the rank on
6 lieutenant.

7 COMMISSIONER BELL: Sergeant.

8 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Sergeant. Michael was one
9 of the original members of Coleman Young's Executive
10 Security Team. So, yeah, the Blount family longtime public
11 servants associated with the Detroit Police Department for
12 sure.

13 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Commissioner
14 Mallett.

15 Any other comments, commissioners?

16 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: So Madam chairperson,
17 there was the -- are we going to -- is it appropriate to
18 bring up the memo and have a brief discussion about towing?

19 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Under old business?

20 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Under old business? Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER CARTER: At this time we will have a
22 report from the Board secretary.

23 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to
24 call to your attention there are three items listed on the
25 agenda, and they're largely informational items. One of

1 then has already been reported on by our CFO, which is the
2 schedule that we received and questions from the Detroit
3 City Council in connection with the budget hearings that
4 are coming up.

5 Secondly, there was information that was shared
6 by one of the commissioners in which we in turn shared with
7 the rest of the Board. And this was a statement from the
8 Michigan Department of Civil Rights which had to do with
9 the county declaring a welcoming declaration. And we hope
10 that you all will take that kind of information. As we
11 see, these are thing in which you have spent time in the
12 past on your agenda; and, therefore, they've been of some
13 concern. And we're trying to provide that update, if you
14 will.

15 And then lastly -- and this has to go in the same
16 way in terms of an update -- we received an article from
17 one of the commissioners who asked that that also be
18 extended to the rest of the commissioners. And that had to
19 do with the Dallas Police Department. And that was the
20 work that is being done there. And this particular article
21 focused on the questions of citizen complaints. So I just
22 wanted to simply draw your attention to those three items.
23 And beyond the comments in which I made earlier relative to
24 the budget, that concludes any report that I'd like to make
25 today.

1 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

2 Any questions for, Mr. Hicks?

3 All right, is there any old business.

4 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Yes. Madam Chair, thank
5 you very much. I do think, Madam Chair, that this is an
6 important moment for the Board. Because I think we do a
7 disservice to our staff. Because I think that there is
8 confusion about how it is that we ought to be proceeding as
9 it relates to the issue of police towing.

10 So I shared an email with my colleagues pursuant
11 to a notification that had gone out from Mr. Hicks. And I
12 have great sympathy for the position that he's in, because
13 he can only do what he's asked to do. The idea that we
14 would put forward a request for funds to create an
15 oversight function to the tune of \$500,000, it seems to be
16 extraordinary. Particularly when we are at a moment --
17 everybody around the table, including me -- endorse very
18 vigorously the idea that we would use whatever power we had
19 to make ensure that our police officers got a raise. We
20 have an opportunity -- and I think what we perhaps may --
21 and I'm going to make a motion, Madam Chairperson, at the
22 conclusion of my remarks.

23 But the bottom line is, is that we have seen the
24 process of towing victimize not only the citizens of the
25 City of Detroit occasionally, but also indirectly and

1 unfortunately sometimes capture and sometimes victimize
2 members of DPD. There's a thing, Madam Chairman, called
3 soft corruption and then hard corruption.

4 Hard corruption would be where I gave you \$5 to
5 do something that you otherwise might not do. Soft
6 corruption is, you know, I'm going to send a cake to you on
7 your birthday party. It's nothing that's going to
8 influence your behavior over time. But, Madam Chairperson,
9 I'm acting with purpose. I am trying to create a
10 relationship with you that is going to cause you to think
11 highly of me in the future. So I think that, you know, we
12 have a responsibility. I think this Board does a lot of
13 good work. And I think that responsibility shields our
14 officers from all of that, if we can.

15 When Butch Hollowell was here, there was a
16 resolution put forward by the Board where we indicated that
17 we were going to transfer jurisdiction of the towing
18 responsibilities, particularly as it related to awarding
19 the contracts, to the City of Detroit's Purchasing
20 Department. Now some weeks later Attorney Wyrick gave us a
21 memo and tried as best as he could -- and I thought that it
22 was a really valiant attempt to create an argument that
23 didn't exist around the fact that we might have behaved
24 inappropriately.

25 The point of the matter is, Madam Chair, is that

1 we cannot and don't act pursuant to memos given to us by
2 our lawyer. If we determined as a Board that the
3 resolution that we passed to transfer jurisdiction in
4 oversight of towing where I believe that it should be, the
5 City of Detroit Police Department, then we should --
6 someone should make a motion to cause that resolution to be
7 withdrawn so that there's been a vote so that resolution
8 has been overturned. To my knowledge, that was never done.

9 The resolution that passed the first time, Madam
10 Chairperson, again, if memory serves me correctly, was
11 unanimous. So what I would like to do is just get some
12 clarity. We as a Board made a decision. There was, and I
13 guess legitimately, questions on the Board as to whether or
14 not we acted appropriately. All right. So that question
15 was not answered in any definitive way by the memorandum
16 produced by our lawyer. And we have now left our staff in
17 the middle of an argument that I think, Madam Chairperson,
18 we need to resolve.

19 So I believe that we have a resolution that
20 governs how we ought to be behaving. I think that we ought
21 to take our staff out of the middle of the Board of Police
22 Commissioners' work -- it's our responsibility. Gregory
23 Hicks and his team should not be directed to do something
24 in direct opposition to a publicly adopted resolution of
25 this Board.

1 So what I'm asking for, Madam Chairperson, is
2 clarity of what our position actually is. So the -- and
3 I'm going to -- and I don't know whether or not it's
4 correct or not. Because I don't know how you put forward a
5 motion to confirm a resolution that you've already passed.
6 If there's somebody on the Board who's got more
7 problementary insight than me [sic] -- but the bottom line
8 is that I wonder, Madam Chair, if it's appropriate for us
9 to reaffirm our decision taken earlier to transfer
10 jurisdiction? Is that a proper motion? If it is, I'd like
11 to make it. But I do believe that were we are right now,
12 we are doing a disservice to the people who work for us.
13 Because I really do believe that they're confused.

14 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay. Commissioner Bell.

15 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair, I respect
16 Commissioner Mallett's concern. And I think we do need
17 clarity of this particular matter. I agree with you on
18 that. And I think that all the commissioners need to
19 receive that resolution that we passed. And from there I
20 think that we are looking at in terms of reviewing all the
21 issues concerning towing with the corporation, newly
22 appointed corporation council. We already established
23 that. We're also looking at the mayor and the chief of
24 police in reference to this matter. We're setting up
25 timelines to address those matters.

1 Towing is something that we inherited. This
2 Board needs all the background information -- this Board
3 needs all the background information on it. Mr. Hicks and
4 staff is moving along with projection of the Budget
5 Committee working towards that. Because there's concerns
6 at every level; the council, the mayor, and the department
7 in terms of what has transpired with indictments. The
8 scrutiny of it is still ongoing. We're trying to come to
9 grips. The resolution pretty much stands. And as you
10 mentioned, the entities involved are still involved that we
11 designated to be involved with that process. But the
12 monitoring, etc. etc. needs to be addressed. It is still
13 our responsibility to some extent. So as we move forward,
14 I think we can perhaps do this in a timely matter that will
15 please you in terms of all information, all the documents,
16 and all the players come together.

17 Meanwhile, the towing issue, it's going on in
18 terms of the department is well aware; the chief has taken
19 certain steps. I see a lieutenant there. I see a sergeant
20 there. I see a police officer there. So those efforts are
21 being worked with. The newly appointed Corporation
22 Council, he's agreed to meet with us as soon as possible;
23 we get on his calendar. And I think we can flush all of
24 the concerns out in terms of not revisiting a motion, but
25 let's let it stand for a period of time that we can flush

1 it out as soon as possible in the next two or three weeks.
2 But meanwhile we need to share all the information with the
3 Board where they can come up to speed and be enlightened in
4 terms of where we are and why we're taking those steps.

5 We don't know budget-wise that it might pass and
6 it might not. We don't know, because the Mayor has to
7 weigh in on it. Mr. Hill. They all have to weigh in on
8 it, so nothing is solid.

9 COMMISSIONER BURCH: We don't know what you're
10 talking about.

11 COMMISSIONER BELL: But we're trying to work it
12 up and do due diligence, and we're accountable for this in
13 terms of -- but we do not manage it day-to-day. We rely on
14 the department. But as we know, there was some issues
15 involved at the highest level of the department, but they
16 have addressed that. But we are trying to do due diligence
17 to do our best under these circumstances. But day-to-day
18 towing is still going on. It's a necessary concern, but we
19 do not intervene or not interfere. We don't know where we
20 are with this towing issue. We tried to get information;
21 who's towing now. There's some downsize. But I know Mr.
22 Massaron, the attorney for the city and for the mayor puts
23 things on hold for some reason.

24 COMMISSIONER DEWAELSCHE: He put them on hold.

25 COMMISSIONER BELL: He put things on certain

1 hold. Because we've asked. We think it's that we was
2 involved; this matter was not handled properly. So we met
3 with him, and he agreed to put things on hold. So that's
4 where we stand now. So we're working. We're not out here
5 isolated ourselves to say that we want to do all this. We
6 know the players involved. We're trying to address their
7 concern. I'm hoping that you will entertain where we are
8 in terms of reporting out. The chair is on the towing
9 committee, chair of that committee.

10 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Commissioner, I appreciate
11 that. And let me just hurry and say that I am positive
12 that you believe in your heart of hearts that you're doing
13 everything exactly right as it should be done. In my heart
14 of hearts, I am dismayed that we would at a time when the
15 city's finances are as fragile as they are, that we would
16 put forward a budget motion to say that we're going to set
17 up our own oversight and we're going to spend \$500,000 of
18 the tax payers money to take on a responsibility that we
19 don't need. So what I'm suggesting to you, Commissioner
20 Bell and Madam Chairperson, is this; I have profound
21 respect for the work that people on the Budget Committee
22 do. But this -- it seems to me -- and this is fundamental
23 I think, Madam Chairperson. I hope that you stay the
24 chairperson of this committee forever. Because it requires
25 tremendous patience. Because clearly me and Bell, we gone

1 keep people watching Channel 10 for damn sure.

2 The point is though is this; is that -- and I'll
3 give you another example, Madam Chairperson. When we were
4 getting -- the Budget Committee, if they believe that this
5 \$500,000 is something that ought to be done, that's a
6 recommendation they ought to make to us. We ought to be
7 behaving in a much more transparent manner. So let's
8 suppose that the Budget Committee says, you know what, this
9 is a great idea. Bring it to the Board. Let us consider
10 it. Let us have a conversation about it. It might be a
11 great idea. But to leave Hicks out there by himself, to
12 leave him the only one responsible -- because if someone
13 asked me about it, I'm going to say it's a terrible idea.
14 I do want to have the opportunity to raise my voice and
15 say, I'm not -- I don't agree with that. And I think that
16 spirited discussion around the commission is important.

17 One of the reasons that I think that we still
18 have an interim director of our Citizen Complaint
19 Department is because there was some feeling, particularly
20 mine -- let me speak only for myself -- that I had not
21 heard about this before. When we continue to try to do
22 things in a nontransparent manner it just doesn't -- it
23 just doesn't function. It just doesn't work. It surely
24 doesn't work for me, and it leaves the staff in a very,
25 very, very vulnerable position.

1 I think that we should not be putting forward as
2 a part of the budget requests that we're going to be
3 publicly responsible for making, even if it doesn't get
4 voted on. We're the ones publicly responsible. There's a
5 public record that says we asked for \$500,000 for an
6 oversight committee. Well I'd like to vote on that. I'd
7 like to vote, because I'd like to be sure that the people
8 in District 2 know that I was adamantly opposed to that,
9 and when I was given the opportunity I voted no. I don't
10 need the mayor to act for me. I don't need the City
11 Council to act for me. If there's a proposed budget coming
12 out of the Board of Police Commissioners, before we throw
13 Mr. Hicks in the middle of the fray, this Board should make
14 a decision as to what we're going to do and then own up to
15 it.

16 And so, Commissioner Bell, I know that you
17 believe that you're doing the right thing. But I'm just
18 telling you that this is a huge error. I want to be on
19 record as making sure that everybody understands what I
20 think on behalf of the people of District 2.

21 And the last portion of it is, is that I think
22 it's premature in light of all of the things, Commissioner
23 Bell, that you just said about the lack of clarity around
24 this issue. And quite frankly, I'm clear. If the rest of
25 the Board isn't, that's too bad. I'm very clear. I know

1 what we did, and I know why we did it. But I think
2 going -- suggesting to the City Council that somehow or
3 another as an entity, we support a \$500,000 request? I
4 would much rather say that from this Board of Police
5 Commissioners we believe that \$500,000 should be donated to
6 the police and spread throughout the department on a raise.

7 So that's what I -- so, you know, it -- we are
8 public servants, and we are also stewards of the tax
9 payer's money. So I believe that Mr. Hicks, frankly,
10 should withdraw that request and that we should have a
11 conversation about what it is that we're going to submit
12 before we do that.

13 COMMISSIONER BELL: Well, Madam Chair, I just
14 want to --

15 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Hold on. Are you going to
16 let the Chairman recognize you? You're not the chairman
17 anymore. You're Commissioner Bell.

18 COMMISSIONER BELL: I said Madam Chair. I said
19 Madam Chair.

20 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: I didn't hear that. I'm
21 sorry.

22 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Mallett, are
23 you done.

24 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: I am. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Bell.

1 COMMISSIONER BELL: I just want to make one more
2 point. It's not about Mr. Hicks. It's not about
3 Commissioner Bell. We as a Board voted on it, but -- I
4 don't know if you were at the table, we voted on the
5 budget, and the budget has gone forward in that manner.
6 But basically -- don't make it personalized that it's about
7 Willie Bell or Gregory Hicks. I think it's not fair to Mr.
8 Hicks especially. I can take the heat. I'm an elected
9 official. I can understand your concern. But the staff is
10 under our direction as the Chair, not Willie Bell. There's
11 a process of the Budget Committee. There's a process that
12 we engage. So it's been duly noted.

13 For clarity, I want to make sure that all the
14 newly appointed board members are aware of all the issues
15 and concerns. That's my concern. I'm clear, but I want to
16 make sure that they are up to speed on this issue to be
17 brought into that light.

18 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Through the Chair.

19 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner, I'm sorry.

20 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Oh, he's next?

21 COMMISSIONER CARTER: No. Ms. Jones wanted to
22 weigh in.

23 MS. JONES: I did. I just wanted for clarity to
24 let you know that the request from the Board for the
25 commission, it was not advanced as part of the mayor's

1 recommendation. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER BURCH: That takes care of it.

3 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: No, it doesn't. Excuse
4 me, Madam Chairperson. No, it doesn't. It doesn't take
5 care of that.

6 COMMISSIONER CARTER: But, Commissioner Mallett,
7 you didn't --

8 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: No, you're right. You're
9 absolutely right. I apologize.

10 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Commissioner Burch is next
11 and then you.

12 COMMISSIONER BURCH: I just want to say to the
13 Chair, I don't have a clue to what you all are speaking
14 about. As the new commissioner I'd like -- as Commissioner
15 Mallett said, I represent three. I need to know what you
16 all have done. So I don't think it's fair for the three of
17 us to come in on the tail end to share at this meeting
18 about what you think is what you did. It should be a
19 meeting so Mr. Hicks -- and to the Chair, I just think we
20 should wait.

21 COMMISSIONER CARTER: That's what Commissioner
22 Bell is proposing, that you all get the information.

23 COMMISSIONER BURCH: We can't get it in one day
24 either.

25 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Right. That you get all

1 the information before we make any decisions.

2 COMMISSIONER BURCH: Yes, ma'am.

3 COMMISSIONER CARTER: That's what he suggested.

4 Commissioner Mallett.

5 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: I'm fine, Madam

6 Chairperson. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Okay. So you will get all
8 the information including the towing rules that were signed
9 by the commission in 2010. The --

10 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Can we get a copy of the
11 resolution that we passed, Mr. Hicks?

12 MR. HICKS: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER CARTER: A copy of that resolution.
15 And then there's a resolution that they passed as well.

16 MR. HICKS: Madam Chair, if you will; I will
17 reconstruct the entire chronology and support, with the
18 documentations that will be included, everything ranging
19 from your towing rules to the resolution that was advanced
20 by Corporation Council and other pertinent information on
21 that.

22 I do want to clear the record that our request
23 was not for \$500,000. The request was for two hundred
24 sixty. And I would put that information in there. And in
25 addition to that, there were a couple of critical points,

1 which as member Mallett indicates, that the resolution --
2 and I'll reconstruct that period in terms of resolution and
3 the comments associated with it. But that resolution
4 related to the awarding of the contract. And this Board's
5 concern has been, yes, the awarding of the contract. But
6 past the awarding of the contract was the monitoring of the
7 program, which is a separate item whatsoever; which was the
8 basis to which the Budget Committee and your body approved
9 us to move forward with the budget that we advanced. And
10 that was for the monitoring. So that is substantially
11 different from the awarding of the contract; whether it be
12 a contract or a permit. That's a different issue all
13 together.

14 But as I indicated, we'll reconstruct the entire
15 item. We're mindful that the new commissioners do not have
16 the background on this issue. And we will share that
17 information and be available for anything that you want us
18 to do relative to a briefing or a discussion in front of
19 the full Board. However you all would want to manage your
20 time, we'll have the information to support it.

21 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Madam Chairperson, can I
23 just ask a question? You're saying, Mr. Hicks, that -- and
24 perhaps as Commissioner Bell gently noted, there might have
25 been a meeting that I didn't attend. You're saying that in

1 the budget that this -- that the commission adopted
2 sometime in 2018, your request -- the request that you --
3 in the email that I saw that was contained therein? That's
4 what you're saying?

5 MR. HICKS: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Okay, I'd like to see
7 that.

8 MR. HICKS: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: But I'd also like to point
10 out -- Commissioner Sanders, are you the chairperson of the
11 Budget Committee?

12 COMMISSIONER SANDERS: Yes, I am.

13 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Okay. You're a man of
14 great talent and experience. I know full well that when
15 there's a matter of substance associated with normally what
16 would be a rather mundane budget, I would ask as a favor
17 from me to you and as one public servant to another that
18 you make special note of significant changes as to what the
19 budget is going to look like. Or if that's not going to
20 happen, then we need no say to the rest of the
21 commissioners, read that thing line by line. Because it
22 might be that a program that you know nothing about and
23 have no support for might have found its way in with no
24 notice to the rest of the Board. You might be voting on a
25 document whose contents you're not completely familiar

1 with. And if that's what's going to happen on this Board,
2 then ought to be really, really, really clear that that's
3 how we're going to function.

4 And I just want to -- and now though I'll say
5 this. Having been forewarned, I will read everything line
6 by line by line. Fool me once, but not twice, baby. Just
7 really, really, really be clear on that. And I understand
8 how this is going to work. And I thought we had come to a
9 different place, but I can go any place we all need to be.
10 Believe me.

11 COMMISSIONER SANDERS: At that point I would like
12 for us to recognize what Commissioner Mallet said. And at
13 this point we will go line by line in reading it and make
14 sure that we have anything that we feel is not appropriate,
15 that the commissioners have look at it.

16 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Absolutely. Thank you.
17 Thank you very much.

18 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Any other comments,
19 commissioners?

20 Any other old business?

21 (No response)

22 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Any new business,
23 commissioners?

24 (No response)

25 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Under announcements, our

1 next meeting will be Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.
2 at the Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, located at 1301
3 Third Street. Our next community meeting will be Thursday,
4 March 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the Downtown Services Division.
5 And the meeting will be at the Wayne County Community
6 College district, located at 801 West Fort Street. Due to
7 construction at the main Fort Street parking lots, please
8 use lot four and five at rear campus entrance.

9 At this time we'll have oral communications from
10 the audience. Please give your name for the record, and
11 limit your comments to two minutes, please.

12 Mr. Brown.

13 MR. BROWN: Madam Chair, I have two cards. Your
14 first speaker will be Mr. Peter Rhodes and your last
15 speaker with be Mr. Eric Blount.

16 MR. RHODES: My name is Peter Rhodes. I'm a
17 resident. I live up in District 2. That's the Twelfth
18 Precinct. And it's good to address this honorable body
19 again. And I've been before the Board for about eleven
20 months concerning police services at downtown venues.

21 The mayor's budget presentation is tomorrow.
22 Board of Police Commissioners and Detroit Police Department
23 have their hearing on Monday. I understand that there's
24 public comments allowed before each presentation. I'll be
25 there to make a public comment. And basically it's the

1 same comment I've been making for eleven months.

2 And also I'm going to put a recommendation in
3 that Downtown Services just have their budget slashed by
4 50% and that revenue be taken and moved over to the Twelfth
5 Precinct for improved police response time.

6 I got a minute. Let me talk about black history
7 month. Talking about black history month and the Blount
8 family, I don't want you to forget about the Honorable
9 Judge Nancy Blount who served at 36th District Court for so
10 many years and done an excellent job, especially as chief
11 judge. Also he started out with the City of Detroit Law
12 Department. Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Rhoades.

14 MR. BROWN: Next speaker is Mr. Eric Blount.

15 MR. BLOUNT: Good afternoon, Chair.

16 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Good afternoon.

17 MR. BLOUNT: As many of you can probably guess, I
18 got to say something about my last name. I am in no way
19 related to Frank or Nancy. I wish I was. But it's an
20 honor to bear the name. So that's all I'm really going to
21 say.

22 I spoke to you last week -- or did I say my name?
23 Eric Blount.

24 COMMISSIONER CARTER: You did.

25 MR. BLOUNT: I spoke to you last week about the

1 history that I know and understand about, the really -- the
2 dismantling of the effectiveness of the Detroit Police
3 Department from residency requirements to the mental
4 health. And then I even touched on the misdirection of tax
5 revenue dollars. And it's to this third point I'd like to
6 make a comment on.

7 Mrs. Jones talked about overtime management, and
8 25% of the overtime is being reimbursed. I'd like to know
9 by who? My thoughts is that perhaps it should be
10 proportional to those corporations who have received tax
11 abatements, or better and more accurately described as
12 corporate welfare. But who is giving us this
13 reimbursement, and should it be more?

14 My next point is in total admiration of Chief
15 Craig; your visionary thought about having some knowledge
16 of not only people's medical record but some contacts with
17 the police. I don't know how that reporting would happen.
18 Because even in the medical records, if the mentally ill
19 find that out they'll stop reporting it; and, therefore,
20 you'll have a lot of unstable people who have never went
21 and sought treatment because they were afraid of being on
22 some list. But it is a visionary thought that I hope will
23 receive some type of traction.

24 And lastly, related to towing, what are some of
25 the best practices that we've seen throughout the country?

1 How do other police departments handle it? Not that anyone
2 is perfect, but just how are some other departments being
3 more successful than us? Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you, Mr. Blount. And
5 I don't have an answer to that.

6 Chief, do you have one?

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, I did want to
8 respond to the mental -- and I appreciate that. You know,
9 one of the -- and I know HIPAA -- certainly there's some
10 HIPAA challenges. But when you talk about mentally ill
11 persons being able to obtain a CPL or being able to
12 purchase a weapon, there's got to be a way that there's a
13 flag that pops up, number one. Number two, I think that in
14 addition -- even if the person doesn't report or there's no
15 medical history delineating what their mental state is,
16 certainly police records. So you take an individual who --
17 and I said this just outside in another news station that
18 wanted to talk about the mentally ill. I said how
19 difficult would it be that if we've had a contact with
20 someone suffering from mental illness that that would be a
21 flag and an indicator that that person is suffering?

22 I reported out several weeks ago that the Detroit
23 Police Department handles 500 calls for service monthly
24 involving persons suffering from mental illness. Of that
25 number anywhere between 100 and 125 are armed. Oftentimes

1 citizens don't hear about it, because our SRT is involved.
2 It might be a barricaded suspect emanating out of a family
3 dispute, and it's resolved without incident.

4 Clearly when you look at the recent incidents,
5 whether it's the Collins-Rhodes shooting or the two Detroit
6 police officers, the barricaded suspect just a week ago,
7 clearly a nexus to mentally ill. And then the question is,
8 how many times have we had interaction with that person,
9 even though we know that there was no documented history of
10 mental illness?

11 So we're seeking and looking for opportunities to
12 really fix this situation. I know I met with councilman --
13 new councilman Roy McAllister (Phonetic) on this this
14 morning. He's certainly eager to be involved in the
15 conversation in a collaborative effort. Because what we're
16 doing now from a law enforcement; it shifted from mental
17 health professionals over to criminal justice. And that's
18 not what should happen. Because we don't treat the
19 mentally ill. We can mitigate a threat. But when is
20 somebody going wake up and say, look, if they're committing
21 a crime they end up going to jail. And Benny Napoleon is
22 not going to treat them in the jail. And so now we have a
23 jail with 70%, conservative figure, of people suffering
24 from mental illness. So someone needs to step up and say
25 from a civil liberties, we're criminalizing the mentally

1 ill. And I'll continue to say it. And we just need to do
2 better. But I appreciate your accolades in that area.

3 MR. BLOUNT: And through the Chair, maybe to get
4 your idea off the ground and running, are there any other
5 departments within the country that have tried this type of
6 method?

7 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair, it's really a
8 national crisis. I know the president recently talked when
9 he had his listening session with some of the victim's
10 families. And through that listening session, there was
11 some conversation around being able to in some kind of way
12 there's a flag that pops up when someone's trying to
13 purchase a weapon. Now we know whether it's the mentally
14 ill or someone who is a criminal, they're not going to
15 purchase a weapon through legitimate means. They're going
16 to get a weapon. And so that's why I said earlier to this
17 body that we also have got to talk about how do we keep
18 hands of the hands -- how do we keep guns out of the hands
19 of criminals or individuals suffering from mental illness?

20 MR. BLOUNT: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair.

22 I'd like to respond to your second part about the
23 towing issue, what's best practiced. When we had our
24 training session for the Board last year we brought in a
25 commissioner from LAPD; their commissioner and executive

1 director. And they talked about they control -- they
2 handle not only police towing but all the public towing.
3 They are involved with that process; police and private
4 towing in nearly -- that's my understanding. And I don't
5 know if that's the best practice.

6 But the reason why we are involved with this
7 towing issue, the Board of Police Commissioners, was not
8 always the case. When I started my career, towing has been
9 a corrupted matter for the Detroit Police Department
10 forever. And here we are today in terms of monitoring
11 accountability. There's got to be some point in time that
12 we address this. It should not be the role of the Detroit
13 Police Department. They have enough on their plate in
14 terms of dealing with criminal justice system as we know
15 it. And this issue should not be on that plate in my
16 opinion. But we need to look at best practice, how we can
17 approach it from a City of Detroit approach.

18 It is a million dollar business. It is a million
19 dollar business. I don't know how much. But we have to
20 look at the history of how we got involved with the Board
21 of Police Commissioners. And when I looked at that, that
22 should not have happened. We have it, but there should be
23 some type of process of monitoring what's best practice;
24 how do we approach it to resolve this issue. And how we're
25 going to resolve it, I don't know. But it's not at this

1 level of this Board. It should be at a higher level how we
2 resolve this towing issue for the city of Detroit in terms
3 of dealing with that.

4 Now I'm a person who -- when you talk about
5 mental illness, I'm a person -- criminal justice student
6 and a history buff more or less. It's a big issue with the
7 Department of Correction. Not just in the state of
8 Michigan, throughout this country; mental illness. How do
9 we deal? We're incarcerating people. It's like the old
10 days, in the early days where you incarcerate people
11 because they was crazy. And the church took on that whole
12 role. So how do we deal with these issues of best
13 practice, and how do we approach a million dollar business?

14 We need to come to grips with it, because it's
15 corrupted. We need to come to grips with it and not just
16 sit at this table talking about it. I would ask the Board
17 members to take time to study these issues. And then,
18 therefore, you can have an idea of what is transpiring and
19 why we need to get out of this business in terms of this
20 towing issue for the Detroit Police Department.

21 CHIEF CRAIG: Through the Chair. And I
22 appreciate you bringing up, you though, best practices,
23 who's doing it. I can tell you, in my 28 years of working
24 in the Los Angeles Police Department, I know of no time
25 where we had anything even close to this. You might have

1 an individual tower that might get involved in some low
2 level theft of some items, but I have never seen anything
3 like this. I'm certainly an advocate for what's called
4 official police garage where the City of Detroit Police
5 Department runs its own towing. Because it's strictly
6 regulated to the point where you don't have this system of
7 rotations where you create this opportunity. It's the city
8 of Detroit.

9 I know I had some conversation with the mayor
10 about this. We are studying the LA model. We are looking
11 at official police garage. We know that we're not in a
12 place where we can go out and buy, say, 100 tow trucks and
13 do the whole city. Not right now. But there is an
14 opportunity possibly to start small, you know, and look at
15 the impact of the city of Detroit controlling its own tow.
16 Even if it means, say, there's a bid process where you
17 identify a towing company that now is contracted to the
18 city of Detroit that's under the banner of a police --
19 official police garage. I think there's a lot of
20 opportunity to do it that way. Because, again, all the
21 years I worked there, and a good part of my time in
22 internal investigations, never did we have anything like
23 this. So coming back to Detroit, I don't know what we did
24 in the '70s, but I think that's the answer. But I think
25 it's really about what will it cost to launch such an

1 effort. And that also includes having our own tow lots
2 where vehicles will be stored on city owned lots. That
3 revenue comes right into the city, and it's controlled.
4 And if there's any impropriety, because they work for the
5 city of Detroit then certainly individual towers who are
6 engaging in criminal or administrative misconduct could be
7 charged and fired like anything else.

8 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Any other comments? Thank
10 you, Chief. And I would 100% support that. That's what I
11 was sitting here thinking; why don't we have our own?

12 CHIEF CRAIG: Exactly.

13 COMMISSIONER CARTER: All right, thank you, sir.

14 MR. BROWN: Madam Chair, that was your last
15 speaker.

16 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER BELL: Madam Chair, no other
18 business, I move for adjournment.

19 COMMISSIONER MALLETT: Support.

20 COMMISSIONER CARTER: It's been moved and
21 supported that we adjourn. Those in favor.

22 THE BOARD: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Meeting is adjourned.
24 Thank you all for coming out.

25 (At 4:50 p.m., meeting adjourned)

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF WAYNE)

I, Donna R. Williams, Certified Shorthand Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the above county and state, do hereby certify that the above deposition was taken before me at the time and place hereinbefore set forth; that the witness was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth, and nothing but the truth; that the foregoing questions asked and answers made by the witness were duly recorded by me stenographically and reduced to computer transcription; that this is a true, full and correct transcript of my stenographic notes so taken. I further certify that I am not related to, nor of counsel to either party, nor interested in the event of this cause.

DONNA R. WILLIAMS, CSR 6253

My Commission expires 9/15/2022



Donna R. Williams

A			
a.m 7:15, 18	39:14 42:23	Akbar 5:17, 20, 21	appropriate
abate ments 69:11	54:25 57:6	All-Star 10:1	49:17 54:8
Abdula 5:24	67:18 73:12	12:1	66:14
ability 29:18	addressed 55:12	allocation 19:15	appropriately
able 17:8 22:1	56:16	allow 31:21	53:14
70:11, 11 72:11	adjourn 76:21	allowed 39:24, 25	approval 4:8, 20
absolutely 26:12	adjourned 76:23	41:1 67:24	approve 4:12, 24
62:9 66:16	76:25	allowing 40:3	approved 19:9, 13
AC 16:18	adjournment	amazing 29:21	64:8
academy 9:18	76:18	America 26:14	approximately
11:17 33:23	adjustment 24:12	47:18	14:5, 10
34:9	administrative	American 39:7	area 24:25 28:21
accepted 47:3	76:6	47:17 48:11, 14	72:2
accident 14:3	administrator	48:22	areas 22:24 24:2
accolades 72:2	38:20	ammunition 40:22	25:4
accountability	admiration 69:14	amount 26:20	argument 52:22
73:11	adopt 11:2 12:22	Anderson 46:17	53:17
accountable	12:25	48:1	arm 39:9
56:12	adopted 53:24	Angel 5:23	armed 29:1, 3
accurate 21:24	65:1	Angeles 28:5, 9	36:24 38:14, 20
accurately 69:11	adoption 4:21	29:24 48:19	38:23 39:9
acknowledge	advance 16:3, 8	74:24	70:25
48:10, 17, 21	36:20	announcements	arming 38:8
act 37:1 53:1	advanced 61:25	66:25	armored 37:21
59:10, 11	63:19 64:9	annual 17:25	arrested 36:15
acted 53:14	advocate 75:3	23:1	arrive 37:8 40:9
acting 5:15 52:9	afraid 69:21	answer 29:4 70:5	arrives 39:6
active 37:7, 9, 15	African 47:17	75:24	article 50:16, 20
39:2 40:8	48:11, 14, 22	answered 37:3	asked 21:2 37:3
44:23 45:8, 13	aftermath 35:25	53:15	38:11 50:17
activities 17:10	afternoon 3:5	answers 77:11	51:13 57:1
47:2 48:5	5:20 16:18	Anthony 14:4	58:13 59:5
activity 17:5	46:7 68:15, 16	anticipate 24:3	77:11
18:5 23:20, 21	age 40:13 41:9	24:7	asking 8:13 38:1
26:18	agencies 18:7	anymore 60:17	54:1
actual 19:11	35:6	anyplace 34:5	assaults 13:11
21:8 22:2	agency 6:20 8:3	anytime 26:7	13:16
26:20	19:2 30:1	32:11	assessment 8:14
actuals 19:22	agenda 4:7, 12	apologize 62:9	23:3
ad 46:3, 4	49:25 50:12	apparently 20:18	asset 10:18
adamantly 59:8	Aggravated 13:15	applaud 45:9	12:18
add 22:5 25:14	aging 17:17	applications	assigned 22:21
35:13	ago 14:5, 10	18:3	Assistant 48:13
addition 17:11	28:18 32:14	appointed 9:16	associated 29:1
17:18 18:1	37:14, 14 43:20	11:15 54:22	33:1 49:11
27:22 63:25	70:22 71:6	55:21 61:14	64:3 65:15
70:14	agree 54:17	appreciate 15:22	Association
additional 7:9	58:15	16:1 26:11, 14	34:20
16:1 17:19	agreed 55:22	57:10 70:8	assuming 19:25
23:20	57:3	72:2 74:22	assurance 19:23
address 25:4	ahead 22:19	approach 73:17	At-Large 2:6, 12
	Air 45:4	73:17, 24 74:13	3:16, 19, 21

At-Large/Vice... 2:4	Banks 6:3	29:20 31:6	bootleg 41:10,23
Atkinson 14:8	banner 75:18	33:11 44:16	BOPC 5:6 7:21
attempt 52:22	barricaded 14:11 32:14 37:13	47:12 69:11	bottom 33:11 51:23 54:7
attend 16:3,4 34:19 64:25	71:2,6	72:2	Bowl 10:3 12:3
attended 15:6	Baseball 10:1 12:1	Bettison 2:20 6:10,12,12,18	branch 6:21
attending 3:9	basically 19:21 61:6 67:25	7:1 13:7,8	Bridgett 5:15
attention 5:11 19:3 49:24 50:22	basis 21:15 64:8	15:20 16:9	brief 6:9 49:18
attorney 52:20 56:22	bear 68:20	45:3	briefing 64:18
audience 8:23 15:5 67:10	beat 47:21	beyond 50:23	briefly 46:16
audio 5:8	began 9:19 11:18 43:22	bid 75:16	bring 35:4 44:17 49:18 58:9
August 11:16	beginning 9:3 18:1 30:24	big 14:19 31:2 74:6	bringing 74:22
automatic 41:18	behalf 7:6 17:10 59:20	birthday 52:7	brings 20:4
available 21:21 22:25 45:3 64:17	behaved 52:23	black 46:16,22 47:9,13,25	broken 21:16
average 13:19	behaving 53:20 58:7	48:9 68:6,7	Brooks 2:6 3:19 3:19 7:15,17
awaiting 30:19	behavior 52:8	blame 36:18	9:6,15,16,19
award 10:2,2,3 10:15 12:2,2,3 12:15	Bel 45:4	Blossom 5:13	9:21,25 10:5
awarded 17:25	believe 9:12 40:17 53:4,19	Blount 46:17 47:5,16,19	10:17,21 11:3
awarding 52:18 64:4,5,6,11	54:11,13 57:12	48:1,25 49:1,4	33:18 34:8
aware 55:18 61:14	58:4 59:17	49:10 67:15	35:13 40:12 41:3
awhile 16:5	60:5,9 66:10	68:7,9,14,15	brought 34:17 47:13 61:17 72:24
Aye 4:15 5:2 11:5 13:3 76:22	bell 2:5 3:22,22 18:20 23:10	68:17,23,25	Brown 2:7,15 3:23,23 4:22
	24:5,23 27:18	70:4 72:3,20	5:11 9:2,12
	32:11 43:5	blunt 47:22	14:4 67:12,13
	46:4 49:7	board 1:7 2:14 3:6,7 4:15 5:2	68:14 76:14
	54:14,15 56:11	7:6 8:19,24	budget 7:12,19 8:5,9 16:16
	56:25 57:20,25	10:13 11:5	17:12,15,18
	59:16,23 60:13	12:13 13:3	19:9,12,22
	60:17,18,25	14:20 16:4	20:23 21:8,9
	61:1,3,7,10	20:2,12 22:6	21:13 22:1,9
	62:22 64:24	22:11,13 45:6	22:16,18 23:3
	72:21 76:17	46:9,10,14,14	23:6,7,17,17
	benefit 18:6	49:22 50:7	23:22,24 24:2
	benefits 24:15 24:16	51:6 52:12,16	50:3,24 55:4
	Benjamin 14:8	53:2,12,13,21	57:16,21 58:4
	Benny 43:10 71:21	53:25 54:6	58:8 59:2,11
	best 23:21,25 31:10 52:21	55:2,2 56:3	61:5,5,11 64:8
	56:17 69:25	58:9 59:12,13	64:9 65:1,11
	72:23 73:5,16	59:25 60:4	65:16,19 67:21
	73:23 74:12,22	61:3,14,24	68:3
	better 27:11,24	64:19 65:24	budget-wise 56:5
		66:1 67:19,22	buff 74:6
		72:24 73:7,20	bullets 32:4 40:18
		74:1,16 76:22	Bully-Cummings
		Board's 64:4	
		body 64:8 67:18 72:17	
		books 42:12	

B

baby 66:6
back 5:17 6:10
6:14 9:1 11:23
14:8 21:20
22:1 24:22
31:21,21 32:5
32:8 33:16
35:16 46:18
75:23
background 39:12
40:25 55:2,3
64:16
bad 14:3 59:25
badge 26:10
balance 5:18

48:18
Burch 2:8 3:17
 3:17 27:6,9,21
 30:20 31:22
 32:7,15,19,21
 33:8 39:10
 41:4,6,22 43:3
 43:9,15,18
 44:9,13,17
 45:11,15,19
 56:9 61:18,20
 62:2,10,12,23
 63:2
burner 25:1
Burton 2:9 4:1,1
business 36:14
 49:19,20 51:3
 66:20,22 73:18
 73:19 74:13,19
 76:18
Butch 52:15
buy 40:18,20
 41:10,11 75:12

C

CAFA 17:9
cake 52:6
calculation
 19:12
calculations
 19:14
calendar 55:23
call 43:5,21
 49:24
Callaway 6:4
called 52:2 75:3
calls 15:2 17:21
 28:16,19,20,23
 28:24,25,25
 29:2 70:23
campus 36:25
 37:1 67:8
candid 41:25
capita 28:1,6
capital 18:10
Captain 6:21,22
 6:22
capture 52:1
car 14:3 49:1
card 8:25,25
cards 8:25 67:13
care 25:20 31:19

31:25 62:2,5
career 9:19
 11:18 38:1
 46:23 47:24
 73:8
Carjackings
 13:14
carnage 36:24
Carolyn 5:25
carries 4:17 5:4
 11:6 13:5
carry 40:4 41:2
cars 42:10
Carter 2:3 3:5,7
 3:12 4:3,6,11
 4:16,23 5:3
 6:7,15,25 7:2
 7:16,18 8:2
 9:10,13 10:22
 11:1,6 12:24
 13:4 15:17
 16:10 18:15,19
 25:9 26:16,23
 27:2 34:13
 35:18,24 41:4
 45:23 46:2
 49:13,19,21
 51:1 54:14
 60:22,25 61:19
 61:21 62:6,10
 62:21,25 63:3
 63:7,14 64:21
 66:18,22,25
 68:13,16,24
 70:4 76:9,13
 76:16,20,23
case 73:8
cases 21:21
casework 18:7
Cass 46:18
category 13:11
 13:18
cause 52:10 53:6
 77:17
caused 21:20
census 34:17
Centralized
 16:22,24
certain 35:22
 36:25 37:1
 55:19 56:25
certainly 24:22

26:9 28:24
 29:6,7 35:25
 36:1,18,21
 48:21 70:9,16
 71:14 75:3
 76:5
CERTIFICATE 77:1
Certified 77:5
certify 77:7,15
CFO 6:20 8:3,8
 8:14,20 16:19
 19:2 20:17
 24:22 50:1
chair 3:7,21 4:5
 11:7 12:22
 13:8,20 15:21
 18:20,25 22:4
 23:10 24:5
 25:8 31:16
 33:13 34:14
 35:14,22 38:6
 38:11 41:6,25
 45:7 46:6,15
 48:6,7 49:23
 51:4,5 52:25
 54:8,15 57:8,9
 60:13,18,19
 61:10,18 62:13
 62:19 63:16
 67:13 68:15
 70:7 72:3,7,21
 74:21 76:14,17
chairman 52:2
 60:16,16
chairperson 2:3
 48:24 49:16
 51:21 52:8
 53:10,17 54:1
 57:20,23,24
 58:3 62:4 63:6
 64:22 65:10
challenge 29:19
challenges 26:13
 29:4 70:10
champion 24:16
chance 48:20
change 23:24
changed 28:2
changes 23:23
 26:25 65:18
Channel 38:16
 58:1

charged 23:7
 76:7
charges 22:21
chased 43:23
check 39:12
Chicago 28:9
chief 2:18,19,20
 5:20,21 6:9,9
 6:10,12,13,17
 6:18,20,23,24
 8:19 11:22
 13:7 15:2,8,20
 20:7,8 23:11
 23:18 24:12
 26:2 27:7,8,17
 27:22 30:20
 31:16,23 32:8
 32:16,20,22
 33:9,13 34:6,7
 34:12,16 35:20
 35:22,25 38:7
 38:10 39:11
 40:15 41:7,15
 41:24 42:21
 43:4,10,16,19
 44:10,14 45:3
 45:7,12,16,20
 45:25 46:1,21
 47:6 48:2,4,7
 48:13,18,19
 54:23 55:18
 68:10 69:14
 70:6,7 72:7
 74:21 76:10,12
chief's 7:8 13:7
 19:17 20:11
 24:21
children 35:9
chronology 63:17
church 31:2,4
 44:22,24 45:8
 74:11
churches 31:3
 35:3 38:12
circumstances
 56:17
citizen 50:21
 58:18
citizen's 25:1
citizens 10:4,6
 10:14 12:4,6
 12:14 27:12

29:16 38:14
 51:24 71:1
city 7:13 15:2
 17:11,13 24:19
 24:24 25:3,14
 26:13 27:25
 28:7 29:9,10
 29:18 30:22
 34:25 35:11
 36:10,12 48:12
 48:16 50:3
 51:25 52:19
 53:5 56:22
 59:10 60:2
 68:11 73:17
 74:2 75:4,7,13
 75:15,18 76:2
 76:3,5
city's 57:15
civil 50:8 71:25
clarified 23:12
clarify 35:17
clarity 21:6
 53:12 54:2,17
 59:23 61:13,23
class 16:2
cleaning 22:20
cleanup 17:7
clear 20:9 59:24
 59:25 61:15
 63:22 66:2,7
clearly 57:25
 71:4,7
close 74:25
closely 17:23
 18:6
closure 13:18
club 47:17,17
 49:3
clue 62:13
clues 36:20
coast 28:3
codes 22:22,22
Coleman 6:1 47:2
 48:3 49:9
collaborative
 71:15
colleagues 51:10
College 67:6
Collins-Rhodes
 71:5
column 19:10,15
come 22:10 26:19
 27:14 31:20,21
 33:16 55:8,16
 56:3 62:17
 66:8 74:14,15
comes 13:11
 21:17 44:24
 76:3
comfortable
 42:17
coming 6:10 16:7
 18:3 32:24
 34:17 42:16
 46:11 50:4
 59:11 75:23
 76:24
command 37:6
commander 44:19
 44:19 47:6
commanding 46:25
 47:20
commend 44:18
commendation
 10:4 12:4
comment 15:22
 34:15 38:8
 48:8 67:25
 68:1 69:6
comments 9:3
 15:18 28:20
 35:19,21 45:24
 49:15 50:23
 64:3 66:18
 67:11,24 76:9
commission 58:16
 61:25 63:9
 65:1 77:23
commissioner 2:4
 2:5,6,7,8,9,12
 3:5,12,13,14
 3:16,17,19,20
 3:22,23,24 4:1
 4:1,3,6,9,10
 4:11,16,21,22
 4:23 5:3 6:7
 6:15,25 7:2,15
 7:16,17,18 8:2
 9:7,8,10,13,14
 10:22,22,24,25
 11:1,6,10
 12:23,24 13:4
 15:17,21 16:10
 16:10 18:15,18
 18:19,20 23:10
 24:5,23 25:8,9
 25:9,10 26:16
 26:23 27:2,6,9
 27:21 30:20,23
 31:22 32:7,15
 32:19,21 33:8
 33:18 34:8,13
 34:13,14 35:13
 35:18,24 38:6
 39:10 40:12
 41:3,4,4,6,22
 43:3,9,15,18
 44:9,13,17
 45:11,15,19,23
 46:2,4 48:24
 49:7,8,13,13
 49:16,19,20,21
 51:1,4 54:14
 54:14,15,16
 56:9,11,24,25
 57:10,10,19
 59:16,22 60:13
 60:15,17,18,20
 60:22,22,24,25
 60:25 61:1,3
 61:18,19,19,20
 61:21 62:2,3,6
 62:6,8,10,10
 62:12,14,14,21
 62:21,23,25
 63:2,3,4,5,7
 63:10,13,14
 64:21,22,24
 65:6,9,10,12
 65:13 66:11,12
 66:16,18,22,25
 68:13,16,24
 70:4 72:21,25
 72:25 76:8,9
 76:13,16,17,19
 76:20,23
commissioners
 1:7 2:1 3:6,7
 4:3,7,18 8:6
 10:14 12:14
 15:19 18:15
 26:16 27:3
 33:10 34:16
 35:18,19 45:24
 49:15 50:6,17
 50:18 54:18
 59:12 60:5
 64:15 65:21
 66:15,19,23
 67:22 73:7,21
Commissioners'
 53:22
commitment 10:8
 10:16 12:8,16
 30:16
committed 16:6
 26:5 29:6,8
 32:19,20
committee 22:6
 22:10,16 46:3
 46:3,6,11 55:5
 57:9,9,21,24
 58:4,8 59:6
 61:11 64:8
 65:11
committing 71:20
commodity 22:22
communications
 8:23 67:9
communities 10:7
 12:7 34:23
community 1:9
 13:14 14:20
 15:3 24:23
 25:4 28:15
 32:9 35:5 67:3
 67:5
company 75:17
compared 28:3,18
comparison 39:7
compensate 24:8
compensated
 24:15 25:16
Complaint 58:18
complaints 50:21
completely 65:25
completion 18:12
computer 77:13
concealed 41:2
concern 7:7 8:17
 8:18 20:4,12
 20:12 24:6
 50:13 54:16
 56:18 57:7
 61:9,15 64:5
concerned 24:6
 24:18,25

concerning 54:21 67:20	contracted 75:17	counsel 77:15	criminalizing 71:25
concerns 18:21 18:22 37:13 46:9 55:5,24 61:15	contracts 52:19	counted 34:24 35:5,7,9	criminals 42:3,6 72:19
concludes 50:24	contribution 17:9	counting 35:4	crisis 44:15 72:8
conclusion 51:22	control 42:1,2,5 73:1	country 27:20 28:6 44:15 47:13 48:16 69:25 72:5 74:8	critical 32:12 63:25
conducted 34:20	controlled 76:3	county 42:15,17 42:18 50:9 67:5 77:3,6	Cromwell 5:24
confidence 28:15	controlling 75:15	couple 14:14,22 63:25	crosses 18:8
confirm 54:5	convene 46:13	courageous 24:9	CSR 77:20
confused 54:13	conversation 21:25 40:15 44:5 45:16 58:10 60:11 71:15 72:11 75:9	course 5:17 22:7 28:2,10	current 8:5 13:9
confusion 51:8	conversations 42:20	court 5:9 68:9	currently 22:8
congratulate 10:20 12:20	Conway 6:22	cover 8:8,11 20:19	D
connection 50:3	copy 8:6,19 27:1 63:10,14	CPL 40:1 70:11	Dallas 50:19
Conrad 2:11 3:24	core 29:13	Craig 2:19 26:2 27:7,17,22 31:16,23 32:16 32:20,22 33:13 34:6,7,12 35:22,25 38:10 39:11 40:15 41:7,15,24 43:4,10,16,19 44:10,14 45:7 45:12,16 46:1 48:7 69:15 70:7 72:7 74:21 76:12	damn 58:1
conservative 71:23	corporal 30:7	create 29:22 51:14 52:9,22 75:7	dancing 42:20
consider 58:9	corporate 69:12	created 47:13	danger 32:13
considered 33:5 45:14	corporation 54:21,22 55:21 63:20	creating 30:3,5	dangerous 29:19 32:25
consistent 18:5	corporations 69:10	credit 10:9 12:9	Daniel 6:3
consortium 35:6	correct 7:25 22:21 43:18 54:4 77:14	crime 13:9,12 35:23 42:2 71:21	Darryl 2:7 3:23
construction 67:7	corrected 21:23	crimes 13:13	data 17:7
consultants 21:23	Correction 74:7	criminal 38:21 43:8 71:17 72:14 73:14 74:5 76:6	date 23:13
consuming 28:24	correctly 20:19 53:10	criminalize 43:13	dates 16:2,8
consummate 10:11 12:11	corrupted 73:9 74:15		Davis 2:10 3:13 3:14,14 9:7,8 9:14 10:23,24
contact 42:23 70:19	corruption 52:3 52:3,4,6		day 14:4 26:4,10 46:18 62:23
contacts 39:22 39:22,23 69:16	cost 17:20 75:25		day-to-day 56:13 56:17
contained 65:3	costs 24:3		days 74:10,10
contents 18:24 65:25	Coulter 6:2		DC 6:12 7:1 13:8 16:9 35:15,16
context 21:2	council 7:13 15:3 17:13 23:10 50:3 54:22 55:6,22 59:11 60:2 63:20		deadly 44:2
contingent 40:10	council's 7:23		deal 42:12 47:24 74:9,12
continue 16:12 18:8 21:15 32:9,18 33:16 36:11 45:17 58:21 72:1	councilman 71:12 71:13		dealing 73:14 74:3
continued 17:22 36:13			deceased 47:19
continues 18:6 29:9 44:7			decision 37:25 53:12 54:9 59:14
continuing 30:4			decisions 37:23 37:25 63:1
contract 64:4,5 64:6,11,12			declaration 50:9

deficit 24:4	despite 29:19,19	73:1	17:11 52:2
definitely 24:9	details 22:15	directors 17:24	DPS 14:12 32:17
definitive 53:15	detective 30:7	disabled 13:24	dramatically
degree 20:20	30:17	disagree 40:5	28:2
delineating	determination	discussion 4:13	draw 19:2 50:22
70:15	19:16 36:8	4:25 11:3 13:2	dressing 47:22
Denning 47:17	determined 53:2	23:9 28:14	drive 47:20
49:3	deterrence 36:10	49:18 58:16	drives 13:14
department 7:20	Detroit 1:7,13	64:18	ducks 44:24
8:15 9:17 10:6	1:15 3:1,6	dismantling 69:2	due 17:20 56:12
10:10,15,19	9:17 10:6,6,9	dismayed 57:14	56:16 67:6
11:16 12:6,10	10:13,14,15	dispute 71:3	duly 61:12 77:9
12:15,19 14:21	11:16 12:6,6,9	disservice 51:7	77:12
14:24 17:15,16	12:13,14,15	54:12	duty 13:22,25
17:18,25 18:5	24:19 25:14	Dist 2:3,5,7,8,9	14:9 32:17
18:10,12 23:20	27:13,15,19	2:10,11	33:4,6,7 40:3
25:3 28:4,5	31:10 32:23	distance 43:24	40:8,9
29:18 31:19,25	33:2,22 34:6	district 3:8,14	dynamics 28:12
40:17,19 44:7	35:15 36:14	3:17,22,23,24	41:16
46:19,20,23	40:16,19 41:22	4:2 9:22 59:8	
47:11 48:12,20	44:6,15 46:20	59:20 67:6,17	
49:5,11 50:8	46:23 47:7	68:9	E
50:19 52:20	48:11,20 49:4	disturbance	E 2:9,19
53:5 55:6,18	49:11 50:2	43:21	eager 71:14
56:14,15 58:19	51:25 53:5	Division 67:4	earlier 29:5
60:6 67:22	67:2,22 68:11	document 65:25	35:20 39:1
68:12 69:3	69:2 70:22	documentations	50:23 54:9
70:23 73:9,13	71:5 73:9,12	63:18	72:16
74:7,20,24	73:17 74:2,20	documented 39:20	early 74:10
75:5	75:4,8,15,18	71:9	east 11:21,23
department's	75:23 76:5	documents 17:8,9	28:4
18:4 20:10,23	Detroit's 52:19	55:15	echo 24:24
departments	Detroit's 52:19	doing 14:14	educates 31:10
27:20 28:6	Detroit's 52:19	19:18 29:14,20	educational
39:5 70:1,2	Detroit's 52:19	34:11 42:23	30:22
72:5	Detroit's 52:19	43:14 45:7,12	effect 23:25
depend 35:1	Detroit's 52:19	54:12 57:12	effectiveness
deployment 17:21	Detroit's 52:19	59:17 71:16	69:2
deposition 77:7	Detroit's 52:19	74:23	effort 35:10
deputy 2:20 6:8	Detroit's 52:19	dollar 73:18,19	71:15 76:1
6:10,12,18,19	Detroit's 52:19	74:13	efforts 37:17
13:7 15:19	Detroit's 52:19	dollars 69:5	55:20
46:21 47:6	Detroit's 52:19	domestic 11:22	eight 22:8 30:9
48:2	Detroit's 52:19	33:4,6	39:5 45:22
Derrick 2:12	Detroit's 52:19	donated 60:5	eighteen 32:2
3:16	Detroit's 52:19	Donna 5:9 77:5	40:16,24
described 26:6	Detroit's 52:19	77:20	Eighteen-year
69:11	Detroit's 52:19	door 26:4	40:18
deserve 33:11	Detroit's 52:19	downsize 56:21	Eighth 11:21
deserving 9:25	Detroit's 52:19	downtown 67:4,20	either 20:23
11:25 24:10	Detroit's 52:19	68:3	62:24 77:16
designated 55:11	Detroit's 52:19	DPD 16:13,16	elected 7:3 61:8
			eleven 67:19

68:1
elimination 20:8
 20:9
Elizabeth 2:6
 3:19
Ella 48:18
email 51:10 65:3
emanating 71:2
employment 28:7
 29:12
EMS 24:19
encourage 33:9
endorse 51:17
enforce 37:5
enforcement
 10:18 12:18
 18:7 39:22
 47:9 71:16
engage 61:12
engaging 76:6
enjoying 34:10
enlightened 56:3
ensure 30:15
 51:19
entertain 57:7
entire 63:17
 64:14
entities 55:10
entity 60:3
entrance 67:8
environment
 29:22,25 30:4
 31:17
equipment 17:17
Eric 14:9 67:15
 68:14,23
error 59:18
especially 26:13
 42:13 61:8
 68:10
essentially 19:7
established
 46:24 49:3
 54:22
Eva 2:4 3:20
evaluate 17:24
evening 1:9 5:10
event 77:16
events 40:4,7
everybody 15:1
 51:17 59:19
everyday 19:18

ex-felons 42:13
 42:16
Ex-Marine 33:21
exactly 57:13
 76:12
exam 30:9
example 42:7
 58:3
exams 30:15,16
exceeded 23:16
excellent 31:14
 68:10
excitement 29:22
 29:25 31:18
Excuse 62:3
executive 2:15
 6:21 17:1,3
 46:21 47:6
 48:2 49:9
 72:25
executives 47:13
exemplary 10:17
 12:17
exercise 23:2
exist 52:23
expand 45:13
expectation
 37:20
expected 7:12
expend 19:22
expended 19:14
expenditures
 23:5
expenses 19:11
 19:13
experience 65:14
experienced
 14:23
expires 77:23
explaining 21:17
express 7:6
extended 50:18
extent 55:13
extraordinary
 51:16

F

face 31:7
facilities 18:13
facing 30:14
fact 45:13 52:23
factor 40:23

factually 30:9
fail 44:8
failed 36:16
fair 61:7 62:16
faithfully 9:21
 11:20
fallen 7:7,10,10
familiar 65:25
families 16:13
 16:13 25:19,19
 72:10
family 33:22
 44:10,11 49:10
 68:8 71:2
far 20:16 23:13
 40:3
fatalities 14:12
father 44:4 49:1
 49:2
favor 4:14 5:1
 11:4 13:2
 65:16 76:21
FBI 47:4
fear 13:14
February 1:11
 3:2 4:7,12,19
 4:24 7:14,21
 9:17 45:5
federal 18:7
feel 42:16 66:14
feeling 58:19
female 48:19
Ferris 17:2
fifteen 40:14
figure 71:23
final 18:11
finances 57:15
financial 22:20
find 34:19 42:25
 69:19
finding 36:13
fine 63:5
finish 22:25
fire 24:19
firearm 39:18
 40:20 41:2
firearms 39:15
 39:16,25 40:4
fired 76:7
fires 43:25
first 5:11,23
 8:11 19:4

21:10 24:18
 25:24 39:6
 44:21 46:4,21
 47:6,17 48:1
 48:10,13,19
 53:9 67:14
 77:9
fiscal 5:12 8:11
 8:12 11:21
 16:16,21 17:4
 17:5 18:1 21:1
 22:25
fitting 48:10
five 4:2 24:7,10
 27:25 28:22
 67:8
fix 71:12
flag 70:13,21
 72:12
fleet 11:23
 18:13
flier 45:3
Florida 25:22
 36:2,4,17,19
 41:17,20
flush 55:23,25
focus 21:4
focused 50:21
folks 14:25
follow 36:11
following 7:19
Fool 66:6
force 44:2
forces 38:21
forefront 29:15
foregoing 77:11
forever 57:24
 73:10
forewarned 66:5
forfeiture 18:4
 18:9
forget 68:8
form 52:14
former 17:1
 48:17
Fort 67:6,7
forth 20:1 77:9
Fortunately 44:1
forward 30:3,15
 51:14 52:16
 54:4 55:13
 57:16 59:1

61:5 64:9
found 31:24
 65:23
founding 47:10
 47:16
four 3:22 28:7
 39:4 67:8
fourteen 40:14
Fourth 14:2
fragile 57:15
frame 47:1
frank 46:17 47:1
 47:5,16,18,22
 47:22 48:1,25
 49:1,2 68:19
Frank's 49:4
frankly 59:24
 60:9
fray 59:13
free 45:4
freeway 14:2
Friday 7:14
front 22:10 25:1
 28:17 64:18
full 22:5 33:25
 46:14 64:19
 65:14 77:13
fully 41:18
function 51:15
 58:23 66:3
fundamental
 57:22
funding 22:24
 34:25 43:1
funds 18:8 19:19
 19:24 20:18
 21:21 27:14
 51:14
funeral 10:2
 12:2 15:6
funerals 25:2
further 77:15
future 52:11
FY18 17:18
FY19 17:12 23:23

G

garage 75:4,11
 75:19
Garza 2:4 3:20
general 15:3
 21:4

generated 22:7
gently 64:24
Gerald 6:23
getting 15:23
 29:15 30:11
 58:4
give 7:4,12
 14:19 20:21
 23:14 58:3
 67:10
given 3:11 30:9
 36:20 40:22
 53:1 59:9
giving 22:3
 25:23 69:12
glad 16:7
go 5:17 17:13
 19:20,21,24
 20:23 22:9
 23:19 25:24
 31:12,18 32:5
 34:5 37:8,16
 37:22 38:3
 39:11 41:10
 43:10 46:4
 48:2 50:15
 66:9,13 75:12
goes 23:25 32:11
 36:23 38:23
 40:25
going 5:23 9:6
 11:7 13:6
 15:13,14,15
 23:16 27:12
 30:3,12 31:21
 33:3 35:1,4
 36:1 43:16
 45:4,21 46:5
 46:13 49:17
 51:21 52:6,7
 52:10,17 54:3
 55:17 56:18
 57:16,17 58:13
 59:2,14 60:2
 60:11,15 65:19
 65:19 66:1,3,8
 68:2,20 71:20
 71:21,22 72:14
 72:15 73:25
good 3:5 5:20
 16:3,18 45:5
 47:22 52:13

67:18 68:15,16
 75:21
government 27:15
governs 53:20
graduate 31:12
Graduated 46:17
graduating 9:18
 11:17
graduation 16:2
 16:5
grandson 33:20
 34:8 35:14
grant 6:20 18:2
 26:18 34:21
granted 40:1
grants 17:1,22
 17:25 26:19,20
 26:20
great 47:24
 51:12 58:9,11
 65:14
Gregory 2:14
 53:22 61:7
grind 15:9
grips 55:9 74:14
 74:15
ground 72:4
groups 35:3,7,8
 35:9
grow 29:9
guess 53:13
 68:17
guide 8:20
gun 14:11 38:15
 38:16 40:14,14
 41:9,10,11,11
 41:12,14,18
 42:1,5
gunfire 44:2
guns 42:2,3,14
 72:18
gunshot 14:10

H

Ha 6:20
half 28:9 32:14
 37:14
handle 28:22
 29:1 70:1 73:2
handled 57:2
handles 70:23
handling 28:19

28:21
hands 42:3,4
 72:18,18,18
happen 34:2
 38:18 39:14
 65:20 66:1
 69:17 71:18
happened 21:20
 25:17 33:2
 39:7 73:22
happy 17:3 37:18
hard 34:11 37:24
 52:3,4
harder 15:9,10
harm 45:21
harms 37:23
hate 42:18
hazards 32:11
head 14:6 47:24
Headquarters
 1:13 67:2
health 43:7 69:4
 71:17
hear 60:20 71:1
heard 20:19
 28:19 58:21
hearing 67:23
hearings 7:19,20
 50:3
heart 16:6 33:24
 57:12,13
hearts 25:1
 57:12,14
heat 61:8
held 45:4
Helen 16:22
help 15:24 24:2
 27:11 33:5
 35:10
helps 30:18
hereinbefore
 77:8
Hewitt 6:23
Hicks 2:14 4:4,5
 5:5,7 7:25 8:1
 18:22,25 21:6
 21:11 22:4
 49:23 51:1,2
 51:11 53:23
 55:3 58:11
 59:13 60:9
 61:2,7,8 62:19

63:11,12,16	hundred 27:24	incidents 71:4	inmate 43:11
64:23 65:5,8	28:23 29:2,2	included 63:18	inside 31:4
Hicks's 23:1	63:23	includes 22:19	40:10
high 27:24 28:2	Hunter 16:22	76:1	insight 54:7
28:24	hurry 57:11	including 14:12	institutions
higher 29:13	hurt 34:1	17:7 51:17	30:22
74:1	hypothetically	63:8	integrity 10:8
highest 10:19	38:19	increased 17:21	12:8
12:19 27:20		27:13 28:16	interaction
46:22 48:2	I	increasing 26:3	46:12 47:11
56:15	ice 14:3	incurred 19:11	71:8
highlight 20:5	idea 20:21 23:14	19:13	interacts 46:24
highly 10:10	51:13,18 58:9	indicate 5:8	intercede 36:25
12:10 16:4	58:11,13 72:4	46:6	interest 19:3
52:11	74:18	indicated 29:5	interested 30:23
hijacked 39:8	identified 21:19	39:1 52:16	77:16
Hill 56:7	identify 24:2	64:14	interesting
Hiller 6:5	75:17	indicates 64:1	29:17 38:10
HIPAA 39:17 70:9	identifying	indicating 35:6	interfere 56:19
70:10	22:24	indicator 70:21	interim 5:20
hire 40:24	ill 28:23 42:22	indictments 55:7	58:18
hired 40:18	42:23 43:13	indirectly 51:25	internal 75:22
history 38:21	69:18 70:10,18	individual 70:16	intervene 56:19
39:16,19 46:16	71:7,19 72:1	75:1 76:5	introduce 5:6,18
47:4,25 48:9	72:14	individuals	5:22 6:8,16,19
68:6,7 69:1	illness 28:22	28:21 39:15	introducing 5:7
70:15 71:9	29:3 38:22	42:4,6,13	16:20
73:20 74:6	39:17,24 42:4	45:20 72:19	introductions
hoc 46:3,4	43:6,12 70:20	influence 52:8	3:13
hold 56:23,24	70:24 71:10,24	information 7:10	invaluable 10:18
57:1,3 60:15	72:19 74:5,8	16:1 36:22	12:18
Hollowell 52:15	immediate 38:5	50:5,10 55:2,3	investigate
home 13:24 14:1	immediately 5:10	55:15 56:2,20	43:23
14:8,13,17	immigrant 35:8	62:22 63:1,8	investigated
15:1	impact 25:3	63:20,24 64:17	41:13
homicide 6:22	35:11 75:15	64:20	investigation
13:10,18	impacted 18:13	informational	41:1,16 47:4
honor 5:22 68:20	implement 17:17	49:25	investigations
honorable 67:18	importance 29:7	inherited 55:1	75:22
68:8	important 23:8	initial 23:2,15	Investigator
honoring 9:14	51:6 58:16	initially 18:21	5:21,22,23,24
11:2,13	impropriety 76:4	initiate 37:17	5:25,25 6:1,1
hope 24:13 30:2	improved 68:5	initiative 45:9	6:1,2,2,3,3,4
34:5 50:9	inappropriately	initiatives	6:5
57:23 69:22	52:24	17:17 23:19	investment 29:10
hopeful 8:8	incarcerate	27:10	invocation 3:10
hoping 57:7	74:10	injured 7:7,10	3:11
hospital 32:4	incarcerating	13:21 14:2	involved 35:3
hotel 43:21,22	74:9	injuries 37:18	36:9 55:10,10
hour 37:16	incident 14:16	44:3	55:11 56:15
huge 59:18	32:12,13 33:4	injury 13:25	57:2,6 71:1,14
Human 30:12	36:2 39:3 71:3	14:6	73:3,6,20 75:1

involving 28:23
32:3,14 70:24
isolated 57:5
issue 23:11
29:15 34:16
39:12 41:20
51:9 55:17
56:20 59:24
61:16 64:12,16
72:23 73:7,15
73:24 74:2,6
74:20
issues 21:18,19
54:21 56:14
61:14 74:12,17
it'll 25:13
35:11
item 64:7,15
items 20:22
49:24,25 50:22
75:2

J

jail 43:11 71:21
71:22,23
James 2:19 6:3
14:7
Jefferson 43:21
Jerry 11:8,14,15
12:17,20 13:1
Jim 47:16 49:3
job 16:7 24:9
32:11,18 33:25
36:3 37:24,24
68:10
Johnson 3:10
5:12 14:4
join 8:4 17:4
joined 16:23
46:18
Jones 6:20 8:3
16:17,18,18
18:16 21:6,12
22:17 23:15
24:20 26:22,24
27:5 61:21,23
69:7
Jovarka 14:15
JR 2:11
judge 68:9,11
judgment 20:16
July 23:25

jurisdiction
52:17 53:3
54:10
jurisdictions
18:8
justice 43:8
47:11 71:17
73:14 74:5
Justin 13:23

K

keep 15:12,14,16
16:12 31:13
42:2,3 58:1
72:17,18
keeping 29:15
Kellog 34:21
Kelly 17:1
kept 33:20
key 29:25
kids 25:22
killed 32:16
33:6 41:8
kind 19:5 20:2
32:5 40:1 42:5
46:15 50:10
72:11

Kisselburg 14:7
knew 43:5 45:1
know 6:10 8:9
13:13,21 14:24
15:4,7,10,11
15:23,24,24
16:7 20:20
21:9,12,16,17
22:6,11,21,25
23:11,18,21,22
24:9,10,11,12
24:16,17,18,20
24:21,24 25:11
25:13,18,20
26:19 27:9,17
27:24 28:13,13
28:14,16 29:5
29:11,21,23
30:2,6,19,25
32:1 33:13
34:15 35:2,10
35:23,25 36:19
36:24 37:10
38:1 39:11,16
39:19,19,21

40:16,23 41:16
41:17,17,20
42:8,18,21
43:3 45:1,1,1
45:2,3,21 47:4
47:8,14,15
48:4 52:6,11
54:3,4 56:5,6
56:9,14,19,21
57:6 58:8 59:8
59:16,25 60:1
60:7 61:4,24
62:15 65:14,22
69:1,8,17 70:8
70:9 71:9,12
72:8,13 73:5
73:14,19,25
74:24 75:9,11
75:14,23

knowing 38:4
knowledge 53:8
69:15
knows 44:25
Kovak 14:1
Kresge 34:21
Kurt 6:21

L

LA 75:10
lack 59:23
Lamar 5:15
LAPD 72:25
large 17:7 40:7
largely 49:25
larger 28:10
lastly 50:15
69:24
launch 75:25
law 10:18 12:18
18:7 39:22
40:20 47:9
68:11 71:16
Lawrence 5:21
laws 39:17 41:16
41:20 42:12
lawyer 53:2,16
laying 32:3
Leach 44:19,19
leaders 44:22,23
48:22
leadership 46:7
48:15

League 10:1 12:1
learn 34:23
learned 37:14
leave 31:12
58:11,12
leaves 58:24
left 31:18 43:14
43:16 53:16
leg 14:10,17
32:4
legacy 47:19
legal 5:12
legendary 47:5
legislative 7:23
legitimate 72:15
legitimately
53:13
let's 22:8 32:13
38:19 42:7,9
42:19 55:25
58:7
letters 10:3
12:3
level 23:14 55:6
56:15 74:1,1
75:2
levels 28:3
liaison 6:23
liberties 71:25
lieutenant 30:16
49:6 55:19
life 25:17 26:10
lifelong 10:16
12:16
lift 46:16
lifting 48:1
light 37:6 59:22
61:17
lightly 42:11
limit 40:13
67:11
line 13:22,25
20:14,22 26:10
33:11 51:23
54:7 65:21,21
66:5,6,6,13,13
lines 20:14,15
Lisa 2:3 3:7
6:20 8:3 16:18
list 19:1 69:22
listed 18:23
26:19 49:24

listening 34:15
72:9,10
little 27:18
live 67:17
lives 36:10 38:4
47:19
loads 43:5
lobby 24:13 25:5
local 18:6
located 9:1 67:2
67:6
location 45:22
long 25:21 36:4
longtime 49:4,10
look 19:21 25:19
28:3,8,13,25
30:5 33:2
45:19 65:19
66:15 71:4,20
73:16,20 75:14
looked 73:21
looking 22:19
30:18 34:4
54:20,23 71:11
75:10
loosely 19:7
Los 28:4,9 29:24
48:19 74:24
lose 31:14
lot 14:19,23
15:4 23:23,24
28:11,19 29:4
29:24 31:17
32:22 34:24
40:22 41:9
42:1,22 52:12
67:8 69:20
75:19
lots 67:7 76:1,2
loud 25:6
loves 30:23
low 75:1
lucky 34:19
luxury 37:20
45:4

M

ma'am 16:9 27:4
63:2
Macomb 42:18
mad 44:6,7
Madam 4:5 12:22

15:21 18:20
22:4 23:10
24:5 34:14
35:22 38:6
46:5,15 48:6
48:24 49:16,23
51:4,5,21 52:2
52:8,25 53:9
53:17 54:1,8
54:15 57:20,23
58:3 60:13,18
60:19 62:4
63:5,16 64:22
67:13 72:21
76:14,17
Madrigel 5:25
main 21:4 67:7
maintains 18:2
major 8:13,17
10:1 12:1
48:12,16
majority 14:24
Makiba 6:2
making 22:20
29:7 46:22
59:3,19 68:1
Mallet 4:9 66:12
Mallett 2:11
3:24,24 4:21
10:25 12:23
18:18 48:24
49:8,14,16,20
51:4 57:10
60:15,20,22,24
62:3,6,8,15
63:4,5,10,13
64:1,22 65:6,9
65:13 66:16
76:8,19
Mallett's 54:16
man 26:9 41:8
65:13
manage 20:11
22:13 56:13
64:19
management 8:18
11:22,24 69:7
manager 2:15
6:21 17:1,3
managing 8:17
manner 58:7,22
61:5

March 46:13 67:1
67:4
mark 24:11
market 26:6
31:13
marketing 31:1
Marroquin 13:24
Maryland 33:3
Massaron 56:22
materialized
47:5
matter 34:1
46:10 52:25
54:17,24 55:14
57:2 65:15
73:9
matters 54:25
maturity 40:23
mayor 7:12 24:11
26:4 29:6 47:2
54:23 55:6
56:6,22 59:10
75:9
mayor's 17:12
24:21 61:25
67:21
McAllister 71:13
mean 23:18 29:10
29:21 33:14
36:19 45:9
means 72:15
75:16
Media 5:9,13
medical 11:23
39:20 69:16,18
70:15
meet 21:12 55:22
meeting 1:9 3:6
3:9 8:15,22
34:18 46:10
47:12 62:17,19
64:25 67:1,3,5
76:23,25
member 49:4 64:1
members 14:23
16:4,21 44:11
44:11 45:6
47:10,16 49:9
52:2 61:14
74:17
memo 49:18 52:21
memorandum 53:15

memory 53:10
memos 53:1
men 31:9
mental 28:21
29:3 38:22
39:17,24 42:4
43:6,7,12 69:3
70:8,15,20,24
71:10,16,24
72:19 74:5,8
mentally 28:23
42:22,23 43:13
69:18 70:10,18
71:7,19,25
72:13
mentioned 20:17
55:10
merits 10:19
12:19
met 34:9 46:7
57:2 71:12
metal 14:16
method 72:6
Metropolitan
9:18 11:17
mic 13:7
Michael 49:3,8
Michigan 1:15
3:1 34:20 43:2
50:8 74:8 77:2
middle 53:17,21
59:13
midwest 28:4
military 41:12
41:19
millimeter 43:25
million 27:16,25
28:1,7 73:18
73:18 74:13
mind 23:2 25:11
25:25
mindful 64:15
mine 58:20
minority 35:8
minute 48:8 68:6
minutes 4:19,24
36:23 39:4,6
45:22 67:11
mischaracterized
20:7
misconduct 76:6
misdirection

69:4	municipality	nexus 71:7	10:20 11:22
missed 23:9	26:7	NFL 40:3	19:17 21:9,13
35:20		Nichols 5:25	22:1 23:17
missing 39:13	N	nine 17:25 18:10	24:1
mistakes 36:17	name 3:6 7:4	26:19 39:5	officer 8:3 9:6
mitigate 37:8	8:25 36:12	43:25	9:11,11,15,18
38:3 40:9	67:10,16 68:18	nineteen 40:17	9:21,25 10:17
71:19	68:20,22	NOBLE 47:8,14	11:3,8,10,14
model 75:10	Nancy 68:9,19	nonfatal 13:16	11:17,20,25
mom 31:20	Napoleon 71:21	nonlife-threa...	12:5,17,20
moment 6:9 51:6	Napoleon's 43:10	14:6 44:3	13:1,23,25
51:16	Nathan 3:10	nonprofit 34:20	14:1,9,12,13
momentarily 6:13	national 13:19	34:22 35:3	14:15,15,16,25
Monday 7:19,21	44:16 47:9	nontransparent	15:6,8,13,15
17:14 67:23	72:8	58:22	30:8 31:5,8,18
money 19:20 26:8	nature 19:8 21:1	normally 65:15	32:5,17 33:1,3
29:12,24 57:18	nearing 18:11	Northwestern	33:21 34:3
60:9	nearly 73:4	9:22	40:8 44:1
monitoring 55:12	necessary 56:18	Notary 77:1,6	46:25 47:20
64:6,10 73:10	necessity 30:3	note 8:7 23:4,8	55:20
73:23	need 25:23 29:13	25:10 65:18	officers 7:7,11
month 22:14	30:15 33:15	noted 61:12	13:20,21 14:11
28:22 29:2	35:3 37:22	64:24	15:25 16:6
31:20 46:16	38:16 39:16,18	notes 77:14	24:7,8,14 25:6
48:1,10 68:7,7	39:19,20 42:12	notice 65:24	25:11,16,23
monthly 21:8,13	42:24,25 44:16	notification	26:3,6 27:11
21:15 22:6,7,9	45:17 47:8	51:11	27:25 28:10
22:14 70:23	53:18 54:16,18	November 21:20	29:8,11,17,24
months 8:12	56:2 57:19	number 36:5	31:1,6,11 32:3
21:14 32:2	59:10,10 62:15	39:21 40:7	32:3,17,18,23
67:20 68:1	65:20 66:9	44:1,18 70:13	32:24 33:19
morning 71:14	72:1 73:16	70:13,25	36:22 37:9,15
mother 15:12	74:14,15,19	numbers 22:2,3	37:18,23 38:1
40:17 44:4,6,6	needed 21:22	28:1,17	40:4,9,24
motion 4:8,16,19	needs 24:24 25:5	numerous 10:3	42:22 43:4
5:4 11:6 13:5	25:15 26:1	12:3	47:9 51:19
51:21 53:6	39:14 55:2,3		52:14 71:6
54:5,10 55:24	55:12 71:24	O	official 61:9
57:16	Neely 6:4	Oakland 42:18	75:4,11,19
mouths 42:16	neighborhood	object 22:22	officials 7:3
move 4:21 7:4	6:23 30:8 33:5	obligations	24:24
9:4 10:24	Nelson 5:24	21:22	offset 17:19
12:22 30:15	never 53:8 69:20	obtain 9:2 70:11	24:3
55:13 64:9	75:2,22	occasionally	Oftentimes 70:25
76:18	new 15:23 16:6	51:25	Oh 7:18 61:20
moved 4:9,11,23	16:21 17:3,25	occurred 20:20	Ohio 33:2
11:1 12:24	28:10 32:24	October 18:1	okay 6:15,17 8:2
68:4 76:20	62:14 64:15	21:20	9:8,13 15:20
moving 15:12,14	66:22 71:13	offenses 13:17	22:16 26:23
15:16 35:16	newly 54:21	offered 39:8	27:2 31:22
55:4	55:21 61:14	office 2:18 5:21	35:14 43:12
mundane 65:16	news 20:6 70:17	6:24 7:8 10:5	49:20 54:14

old 28:4 40:17
 40:21 49:19,20
 51:3 66:20
 74:9
 olds 40:18
 Olympics 47:15
 once 16:5 23:24
 66:6
 ones 59:4
 ongoing 18:10
 55:8
 operating 17:15
 Operation 9:20
 11:19
 operations 16:21
 17:6,20
 opinion 73:16
 opportunities
 18:2 30:1,5,5
 30:19 71:11
 opportunity
 51:20 58:14
 59:9 75:7,14
 75:20
 opposed 4:16 5:3
 13:4 22:13
 59:8
 opposition 53:24
 options 29:13
 oral 8:22 67:9
 order 19:24
 20:18 47:21
 ordinary 27:12
 organization
 30:10 34:22
 47:9 48:14,23
 organizational
 19:4
 organize 34:22
 organized 22:8
 original 48:25
 49:9
 Otis 45:2
 ought 51:8 53:20
 53:20 58:5,6,6
 66:2
 outcome 17:24
 Outreach 5:13
 outside 36:10,11
 70:17
 overall 17:16
 20:22

oversight 30:2
 51:15 53:4
 57:17 59:6
 overtime 8:17,18
 17:19 20:8,8
 20:10,11,15,17
 20:19 23:5,5,9
 23:11,13,20,21
 24:4 28:14
 69:7,8
 overturned 53:8
 owned 76:2

P

p.m 1:11 3:3,11
 7:13,17 67:1,4
 76:25
 pace 20:16,16
 package 18:23
 packet 8:5,20
 19:1
 paid 27:20
 panic 44:25
 paper 31:7 41:18
 parents 44:3
 Paris 6:20
 parking 67:7
 Parks 10:2 12:2
 part 13:12 20:22
 21:25 22:17
 30:25 59:2
 61:25 72:22
 75:21
 participate 18:7
 particular 19:10
 46:10 50:20
 54:17
 particularly
 28:25 36:11
 51:16 52:18
 58:19
 partners 48:25
 party 52:7 77:16
 pass 56:5
 passed 53:3,9
 54:5,19 63:11
 63:15
 passionate 33:19
 34:3,5
 Pastor 3:10
 pastors 44:23
 patience 57:25

patrol 9:19
 11:18,21,23
 46:24
 pattern 20:25
 patterns 19:25
 pay 25:11 27:11
 29:19 31:24,24
 33:11
 payer's 60:9
 payers 57:18
 peers 10:10
 12:10
 people 6:5 22:15
 25:13 27:16
 29:23 30:19
 31:4 34:4,9
 35:4,8 39:15
 42:10 44:20
 49:2 54:12
 57:21 58:1
 59:7,20 69:20
 71:23 74:9,10
 people's 69:16
 peoples 40:7
 perfect 70:2
 performance
 17:23
 peril 38:5
 period 23:23
 55:25 64:2
 permit 64:12
 person 24:16
 36:13,14 39:21
 40:13 41:1,12
 41:13,13 47:23
 70:14,21 71:8
 74:4,5
 personal 31:19
 31:23
 personalized
 61:6
 Personnel 5:15
 persons 29:3
 39:24,25 70:11
 70:24
 pertinent 63:20
 Peter 67:14,16
 Petty 6:23
 phase 18:11
 phenomenal 36:3
 phone 15:2
 Phonetic 6:22

16:23 17:2
 71:13
 picture 31:2
 pilot 39:9
 pilots 39:8
 pinned 37:15
 pistol 43:25
 place 26:14 33:5
 36:14 37:2
 66:9,9 75:12
 77:8
 places 29:21
 45:14
 plan 8:10,16
 23:21 24:1
 planes 39:7
 planned 17:18
 22:25
 plate 73:13,15
 platform 24:12
 players 55:16
 57:6
 please 5:5 7:3
 8:24 9:7 11:8
 55:15 67:7,10
 67:11
 point 6:18 24:13
 27:19,23 52:25
 58:2 61:2 65:9
 66:11,13 69:5
 69:14 73:11
 75:6
 pointing 36:18
 points 63:25
 police 1:7 2:18
 3:6,7 6:17
 8:17,18 9:5,15
 9:17,18 10:6,9
 10:13,15,17,20
 11:3,8,10,13
 11:16,17,23
 12:6,9,13,15
 12:17,20 13:1
 13:23 14:9
 16:19 18:9
 24:19 25:10,16
 25:23 26:3,6
 26:12 27:8,20
 27:25 28:5,5
 28:10 29:8,11
 29:17,18,24
 30:8 31:1,5,8

32:3,3,5,8,17	practical 38:14	10:11 12:11	pursuant 51:10
32:23 33:1,19	practice 73:5,16	professionalism	53:1
33:21,23 34:2	73:23 74:13	10:8 12:8	push 15:9 25:21
36:22 39:5	practiced 72:23	professionals	30:14
40:3,16,19,24	practices 69:25	43:7 71:17	put 24:17 25:12
42:22 43:4,23	74:22	profound 57:20	25:15,17 35:2
44:7 45:20,21	praise 14:20	program 17:23	35:12 37:23
46:18,20,23	prayers 16:13	64:7 65:22	44:19 51:14
47:5 48:11,17	praying 15:4	progress 17:22	52:16 54:4
48:20 49:5,11	Precinct 9:19,22	project 17:24	56:24,25 57:3
50:19 51:9,19	9:23 11:18,21	projection 55:4	57:16 63:24
53:5,21 54:24	11:21 14:2	projects 17:8	68:2
55:20 59:12	16:24 43:20	18:10	puts 19:16 26:10
60:4,6 67:20	67:18 68:5	promote 31:4	56:22
67:22,22 68:5	precious 37:12	promotional 30:9	putting 38:4
69:2,17 70:1	premature 59:22	30:14,16	59:1
70:16,23 71:6	preparing 7:24	promotions 30:6	
73:2,3,7,9,13	present 5:19	pronouncing	Q
73:21 74:20,24	presentation	13:23	quality 32:23
75:4,4,11,18	7:13 8:3,6,8	proper 54:10	quarter 8:4,7,10
75:19	8:21 16:15,19	properly 24:14	8:12 16:16
police's 23:6	67:21,24	57:2	18:23 19:19
policeman 35:15	president 39:14	property 25:11	22:11,12,12
47:23	72:8	25:14,25	quarterly 22:10
policeman's	president's 38:8	proportional	question 20:7
47:23	pretty 17:11	69:10	23:1 24:6
policy 5:14,14	55:9	proposed 19:22	26:18 27:6
40:6 46:5,6,9	prevailing 29:11	59:11	30:11 38:7,11
politicians	print 8:24	proposing 62:22	40:12 41:9
27:13	prior 5:7 8:12	protective 37:22	53:14 64:23
pops 70:13 72:12	18:5	proud 17:11	71:7
population 27:14	private 73:3	provide 7:9 8:14	questions 7:22
34:16 35:1	privy 41:15	21:7,14,15	7:24 8:7,9,13
43:11	probably 22:9	50:13	8:20 15:19,22
portion 59:21	26:13 27:18	provided 16:2	18:14,16 19:1
POS 9:20 11:19	29:20 33:15	public 1:13 9:3	21:3,3 26:17
11:21	34:18 35:7,23	10:8,16 12:8	27:3 45:23
position 19:16	48:15 68:17	12:16 38:2	50:2,21 51:2
38:13 40:1	problem 22:17	47:7 49:10	53:13 77:11
51:12 54:2	26:8,9	59:5 60:8	quick 5:15
58:25	problementary	65:17 67:2,24	quickly 36:9
positions 48:15	54:7	67:25 73:2	quite 59:24
positive 35:11	problems 32:25	77:6	quorum 4:5
57:11	proceeding 51:8	publicly 53:24	
possessing 42:17	process 22:23,23	59:3,4	R
possession 40:19	38:17,18,25	purchase 39:15	R 77:5,20
42:13	51:24 55:11	39:16,25 40:13	radar 24:21,21
possible 26:21	61:11,11 73:3	40:14,21 41:8	raise 18:22
55:22 56:1	73:23 75:16	70:12 72:13,15	25:12 51:19
possibly 75:14	produced 53:16	purchasing 39:18	58:14 60:6
post 15:8	productive 20:2	52:19	raised 23:11
power 51:18	professional	purpose 52:9	Randall 11:9,11

11:14,15,18,20	8:16 15:2 50:2	23:13 69:13	representatives
11:25 12:5,17	50:16 69:10	reinforce 36:2	7:3
12:21 13:1	receiving 15:22	related 7:10 8:7	representing
ranging 63:18	recipient 10:1	52:18 64:4	2:18 3:8
rank 30:6,7,8,17	12:1	68:19 69:24	request 17:12
48:2 49:5	recognition 10:1	77:15	21:5 51:14
ranking 46:22	10:2,3,16 12:1	relates 36:5	60:3,10 61:24
ranks 46:21	12:2,3,16	51:9	63:22,23 65:2
rapid 17:21	recognize 26:5	relationship	65:2
rate 13:18	29:7,14 39:17	52:10	requested 19:6
Ray 16:23	60:16 66:12	relative 50:23	requests 59:2
re-offend 43:17	recognizes 29:6	64:18	require 23:20
reach 30:16	recommend 16:4	relentless 36:6	requirements
read 9:7,8 11:8	recommendation	rely 56:13	69:3
11:11 15:8	17:13 58:6	remain 19:19	requires 57:24
65:21 66:5	62:1 68:2	remained 9:23	rescue 37:17
reading 41:18	reconstruct	11:24 18:4	research 7:23
66:13	63:17 64:2,14	remarks 7:8,9	reside 44:19
reaffirm 54:9	record 6:13,17	29:5 39:1	residency 69:3
real 5:14 42:19	7:4 21:16	51:22	resident 67:17
42:20	24:17 40:2	remember 27:16	resignation 47:3
reallocate 23:18	59:5,19 63:22	27:17 30:25	resolution 9:7
reallocated	67:10 69:16	43:20 44:4	9:14 10:15,24
17:19	recorded 77:12	48:18	11:2,8,13
really 13:13	records 39:20	remembers 27:18	12:15,22,25
16:5 19:3,4	69:18 70:16	reminder 37:6	52:16 53:3,6,7
22:5 24:25	recruit 33:20	removes 43:25	53:9,19,24
25:15,21 30:15	34:4	replace 17:16	54:5,19 55:9
33:1,12 34:10	recruiting 30:24	repopulating	63:11,14,15,19
34:10 36:12	31:1	27:15	64:1,2,3
37:5 40:25	recruitment	report 7:5 8:4	resolutions 9:5
41:20 52:22	29:20 32:24	8:11 13:7,10	resolve 53:18
54:13 66:2,2,2	recuperating	13:22 15:23,23	73:24,25 74:2
66:7,7,7 68:20	13:24 14:1,5,7	16:16 18:24	resolved 10:13
69:1 71:12	14:7,13,17	19:8,8 20:1,6	12:13 71:3
72:7 75:25	reduced 77:12	20:13,17,21	resources 17:19
rear 67:8	Reedy 11:9,14,15	21:8,14,17	23:18 30:13
reason 8:13	12:17,21 13:1	22:10,14,14	34:25
31:25 56:23	refer 8:19	23:15 26:24	respect 47:24
73:6	reference 25:5	49:22 50:24	54:15 57:21
reasonable 19:5	54:24	70:14	respected 10:10
reasons 31:19,24	referred 19:7	reported 50:1	12:10
58:17	reflect 24:8	70:22	respond 25:5
reassigned 9:22	regarding 38:8	reporter 5:10	36:8,12 44:2
11:23	41:7	77:6	70:8 72:22
reassure 37:4	regards 10:19	reporting 46:8	responded 36:20
recall 20:5	12:19 13:20	57:8 69:17,19	43:21 44:4
receive 19:6	regretted 47:3	reports 19:5	responder 25:24
20:2 27:11	regulated 75:6	21:18,21,25	responders 24:18
36:5 54:19	reimbursed 23:6	22:2,6,9,20	responds 36:6
69:23	23:7 69:8	46:3,3	response 26:2
received 7:20,22	reimbursement	represent 62:15	36:6,13,22

39:4 66:21,24 68:5	robbery 13:13,15	schedule 7:20 17:16 18:2 46:10,12 50:2	seriously 33:25 36:18
responses 7:24	Robert 2:15 13:25	scheduled 7:21 17:13	servant 65:17
responsibilities 52:18	rode 49:1	school 36:2,9 38:20 46:25 47:8	servants 49:11 60:8
responsibility 20:10 52:12,13 53:22 55:13 57:18	role 73:12 74:12	schools 36:5 38:9,12	serve 32:9
responsible 38:24 58:12 59:3,4	room 5:17 9:1	scooter 46:24	served 9:21 10:5 11:20 12:5 38:20 68:9
rest 5:6 50:7,18 59:24 65:20,24	rooms 32:4	scrappy 14:16	serves 53:10
restored 28:16	Rosa 10:2 12:2	scrutiny 55:8	service 10:8,17 12:8,17 17:21 28:16,19,20 70:23
restricted 14:9	rose 46:20	season 22:18	services 5:9 27:7 34:25 67:4,20 68:3
result 18:12	Roslyn 6:3	second 5:16 6:19 8:4,7,12 10:25 11:18,21 16:16 18:23 20:4 72:22	session 21:10 72:9,10,24
retire 47:2	rotations 75:7	secondary 29:12	set 48:21 57:16 77:8
retired 9:5,14 11:2,8,13 12:25 16:22 17:2 49:5	rounds 44:1	Secondly 50:5	setting 54:24
retirement 9:23 11:24	row 5:12,16	seconds 37:11	seven 3:15 21:2 36:23 39:5 45:21
return 14:8	Roy 71:13	secret 38:13	seventeen 41:8
revenue 18:4 23:8 68:4 69:5 76:3	rules 63:8,19	secretary 2:14 49:22	Seventh 43:20
revenues 8:16	run 23:15 37:10 43:22	section 7:23 9:20 11:19	severe 37:19,19
reversed 21:22	running 32:12 72:4	security 44:20 49:10	sexual 13:11
reviewing 54:20	runs 75:5	see 13:10 14:13 14:25 15:1,1 16:6 20:14,14 20:15 24:14 26:12 30:20 31:8 36:16 47:21 50:11 55:19,19,20 65:6	Shanice 17:2
revisiting 55:24	Russell 17:1	seeking 71:11	share 47:25 48:6 56:2 62:17 64:16
Rhoades 68:13	<hr/> S <hr/>	seen 25:17 32:2 51:23 69:25 75:2	shared 50:5,6 51:10
Rhodes 67:14,16 67:16	S 9:15 10:17,21	sell 41:12	sharing 46:9,13
right 5:10 9:4 9:10 13:19,24 22:16 23:24 29:4 30:22 31:18 33:15 38:17 39:10 43:9,15 44:9 44:13 45:15 51:3 53:14 54:11 57:13 59:17 62:8,9 62:25 75:13 76:3,8,13	safe 33:5	semi-automatic 41:19	sheet 31:2,4,7
Rights 50:8	safety 1:13 10:16 12:16 38:2 67:2	seminar 44:20,22	sheriff 36:24
rigorous 39:12 40:25	salaries 24:15 26:4 29:13	send 52:6	Sherry 6:20
risk 28:25	salary 25:6	Senior 5:24	shields 52:13
	salute 10:20 12:20	separate 64:7	shifted 71:16
	Sanders 2:12 3:16,16 25:8,9 25:10 65:10,12 66:11	sergeant 6:23 16:22,23 30:17 49:7,8 55:19	shifting 20:18
	Sandra 9:6,15,16 10:17,21 11:3		Shirley 2:8 3:17
	saw 14:24 15:5 43:22 65:3		shooter 37:9,16 39:2 40:8 41:7 44:24 45:8,13
	saying 20:8 26:11 27:11 31:7 33:21 40:3 42:19 64:23,25 65:4		shooters 37:7
	says 32:22 40:20 58:8 59:5		shooting 14:6 37:2 39:3 71:5
	SBU 6:22		shootings 13:16 25:22
	scale 17:7		shops 41:10,23
	scene 40:10 44:4 44:5		

short 43:24,24
 48:8
Shorthand 77:5
shortly 6:14
shot 14:12,17
 32:16,17
show 21:21 23:16
sic 54:7
side 5:16 23:8
Sidy 16:23
signed 63:8
significant
 38:24 65:18
simple 25:20
simply 50:22
sir 6:7 15:17
 27:21 76:13
sit 30:2 48:22
 74:16
sitting 5:16
 6:11 44:24
 76:11
situation 14:11
 33:7 36:19
 37:9 71:12
situations 32:2
six 3:8 8:11
 28:1,24 39:4
Sixth 9:19,22,23
sixty 63:24
sixty-five 27:24
size 28:9
ski 47:17,17
 49:3
skip 5:14
skyrocketed 43:6
slashed 68:3
small 40:10
 75:14
smaller 21:10
 26:7
smallest 28:5
Smith 14:9,13,17
society 43:13
soft 38:12,12
 40:2 45:14
 52:3,5
sold 41:14
sole 31:25
solid 56:8
solidifying
 23:23

somebody 54:6
 71:20
someone's 72:12
son 44:8 49:4
soon 55:22 56:1
sorry 7:18 60:21
 61:19
sought 69:21
speak 8:24 41:24
 46:5,16 58:20
speaker 67:14,15
 68:14 76:15
speaker's 8:25
speaking 10:14
 12:14 13:9
 62:13
speaks 44:8
special 17:7
 65:18
specialized
 17:20
specific 21:4
 42:5
speed 56:3 61:16
spend 57:17
spending 8:10,15
 8:16 17:24
 19:25 20:24,25
 20:25
spent 50:11
spirit 15:13
spirited 58:16
spirits 14:14
spoke 68:22,25
spoken 23:12
sporting 40:4,7
spread 60:6
squad 49:1
SRT 37:7,21 71:1
stabilized 17:6
stadiums 40:11
staff 5:6,7,19
 5:22 6:15,19
 7:23 37:6 51:7
 53:16,21 55:4
 58:24 61:9
staffing 28:1,3
stagnant 30:10
Stair 48:13
stand 7:3 29:16
 55:25 57:4
standing 46:3

stands 55:9
Stanton 6:1
start 3:12 5:23
 6:19 13:9
 16:20 22:19
 26:3 35:3
 42:20 45:5,9
 75:14
started 15:23
 20:6 40:16
 68:11 73:8
starting 22:22
 22:23 24:10
 48:12
state 41:17 47:7
 47:7 70:15
 74:7 77:2,7
stated 15:9
statement 33:18
 50:7
statements 38:17
States 47:18
station 70:17
statistically
 39:3
status 13:20
 15:25 21:18
stay 15:13 19:25
 57:23
stenographic
 77:14
stenographically
 77:12
step 6:13 48:8
 71:24
steps 55:19 56:4
stewards 60:8
Stewart 6:2
stop 42:20 44:18
 69:19
stored 76:2
storm 14:3
story 43:19,19
street 1:14 32:9
 67:3,6,7
strictly 75:5
stripped 43:1
strive 33:8
strong 8:18
 15:14
strongly 24:14
 25:5

struck 44:2
student 74:5
study 74:17
studying 75:10
style 41:19
subcategory
 13:15
subject 42:11
 48:25
submit 17:8 18:3
 60:11
submitted 8:20
 17:10,12 19:2
 23:22 26:24
substance 65:15
substantially
 28:17 64:10
suburban 31:19
successful 70:3
suddenly 42:9
suffered 13:25
 14:5,16 44:3
suffering 28:21
 29:3 38:21
 42:4 43:6,12
 44:11 70:20,21
 70:24 71:23
 72:19
sufficient 8:16
suggested 39:23
 63:3
suggesting 32:10
 42:12 57:19
 60:2
summarizing
 15:11
Super 10:2 12:2
superiors 10:4
 12:4
Supervising 5:23
 5:24
supervisor 16:24
supervisory 17:4
supplied 8:7
support 4:10,22
 7:7 8:16 12:23
 14:21 15:2
 18:9 26:12,15
 30:3,4 60:3
 63:17 64:20
 65:23 76:10,19
supported 4:12

4:24 11:2
 12:25 76:21
suppose 58:8
sure 8:24 9:2
 11:11 19:17
 22:20,24 27:1
 29:7,16 34:21
 49:12 58:1
 59:7,19 61:13
 61:16 65:8
 66:14
surely 58:23
surpluses 24:2
surprising 32:1
surrounding 10:7
 12:7
survey 31:6
suspect 32:14
 36:9,23 37:14
 43:22 71:2,6
suspects 42:8
 45:18
sustained 14:9
 42:25
sworn 77:9
sympathy 51:12
system 21:19
 23:16 43:8
 44:7 46:25
 47:8 73:14
 75:6
systems 21:23

T

table 9:1 51:17
 61:4 74:16
tail 62:17
take 24:22 33:16
 33:25 36:18
 39:4 40:2
 42:10 45:21
 50:10 53:21
 57:18 61:8
 62:4 70:16
 74:17
taken 25:20
 38:13 54:9
 55:18 68:4
 77:8,14
takes 62:2
talent 65:14
talented 48:14

talk 23:19 25:23
 28:6 31:17
 32:13 39:14,18
 40:6 41:25
 42:1,2,5,19,21
 42:21 44:10,14
 68:6 70:10,18
 72:17 74:4
talked 18:21
 25:22 26:1
 35:23 69:7
 72:8 73:1
talking 20:9,10
 26:3 28:7
 34:25 35:4
 48:9 56:10
 68:7 74:16
tap 42:20
targets 8:15
 20:24,25 38:12
 38:13 40:2
 45:14
tax 25:14 57:18
 60:8 69:4,10
taxes 25:12,25
teach 44:22
teacher 38:15,19
 38:23
teachers 38:8
team 16:21,25
 17:3,4 18:1
 36:3,6 49:10
 53:23
Tech 46:18
technology 18:13
tell 34:24 35:8
 36:4,7 43:11
 43:19 74:23
telling 36:21
 59:18
ten 24:7 28:8
tend 20:23
terms 17:5 18:23
 19:4 24:10,15
 29:9 46:13
 47:24,25 50:16
 54:20 55:7,15
 55:18,24 56:4
 56:13 57:8
 64:2 73:10,14
 74:2,19
terrible 58:13

terror 45:17
terrorist 42:8
testify 77:10
thank 3:8 4:3,6
 6:6,7,25 7:1
 10:22 13:6,8
 14:20 15:16,17
 15:17 16:8,10
 16:14 18:25
 21:6 22:16
 25:7 27:2,4,5
 27:7,8 34:6,7
 34:11,12 35:12
 35:18 41:3,6
 45:25 46:1,11
 46:11 48:6,23
 49:13,23 51:1
 51:4 60:24
 62:1 63:6,13
 64:21 66:16,17
 68:12,13 70:3
 70:4 72:20
 76:9,13,16,24
Theater 45:4
theft 75:2
theme 15:15
thing 26:11
 30:13 35:14
 36:21 39:13
 44:16,16,21
 50:11 52:2
 59:17 65:21
things 15:8,11
 19:6 23:4
 28:14 36:16
 37:3,4,5 56:23
 56:25 57:3
 58:22 59:22
think 18:20 20:6
 20:12,13 21:2
 21:9 23:8,9
 24:23 25:15,23
 26:1,11 27:23
 27:24 29:14
 30:18 32:10
 38:11,12 39:13
 39:13 40:5,15
 40:20,24 44:21
 45:5,16 48:10
 48:12 49:5
 51:5,6,7,20
 52:10,11,12,13

53:17,20 54:16
 54:18,20 55:14
 55:23 57:1,23
 58:15,17 59:1
 59:20,21 60:1
 61:7 62:16,18
 62:19 70:13
 75:19,24,24
thinking 30:21
 76:11
thinks 38:7
third 1:14 8:10
 19:15 67:3
 69:5
thirty-eight
 28:11
thorough 40:25
thought 29:11
 40:23 52:21
 66:8 69:15,22
thoughts 16:13
 69:9
thousand 28:8,10
 28:11,24
threat 36:7,10
 36:14 37:8,10
 38:4 40:9
 71:19
threats 36:5
three 3:18 14:11
 14:12 22:12
 28:18 32:16
 46:8 49:24
 50:22 56:1
 62:15,16
throw 59:12
Thursday 1:11
 67:1,3
Tiffany 6:2
till 19:20 20:25
time 3:8,12 4:4
 4:6,18 5:5 6:8
 7:2 11:7 13:6
 15:7 16:15
 17:10 19:4
 22:18 24:13
 27:17,18,19,23
 28:24 29:22
 34:10 37:2
 39:4 46:2,23
 47:1 48:3
 49:21 50:11

52:8 53:9
 55:25 57:14
 64:20 67:9
 68:5 73:11
 74:17,24 75:21
 77:8
Timekeeping
 16:22,25
timelines 54:25
timely 17:9
 55:14
times 14:14,22
 71:8
tired 34:10
tirelessly 10:5
 12:5
today 8:2 16:20
 29:15 34:19
 47:14 48:23
 50:25 73:10
today's 3:9 8:11
TODD 2:20
told 31:10
tomorrow 7:13
 67:21
tone 48:21
tonight 5:8
total 13:17
 69:14
touch 16:5
touched 69:4
tough 15:7
tow 75:12,15
 76:1
tower 75:1
towers 76:5
towing 49:18
 51:9,24 52:17
 53:4 54:21
 55:1,17 56:18
 56:20,21 57:8
 63:8,19 69:24
 72:23 73:2,2,4
 73:7,8 74:2,20
 75:5,17
tracking 17:23
 22:15
traction 69:23
tragic 25:18
 32:2
trailblazer 48:5
trailblazers

46:19
train 37:7
trained 38:22
training 31:9,9
 31:14 33:19
 38:24 42:24
 45:8,13 72:24
trains 31:10
transcript 77:14
transcription
 77:13
transfer 52:17
 53:3 54:9
transferred 43:7
transition 17:6
 30:12
Translates 28:23
transparent 58:7
transpired 55:7
transpiring
 74:18
treat 71:18,22
treated 44:12
treatment 43:1
 69:21
tremendous 57:25
tremendously
 30:18
rending 13:12
tried 43:23
 52:21 56:20
 72:5
trucks 75:12
true 77:13
truth 77:10,10
try 16:4 25:21
 58:21
trying 14:22
 19:21 22:13
 50:13 52:9
 55:8 56:11,16
 57:6 72:12
Tucker 6:22
Tuesday 15:6
tune 51:15
turn 13:6 50:6
turns 43:24
Twelfth 67:17
 68:4
twelve 28:9
twenty-five 29:2
twenty-one 40:21

twice 66:6
two 3:25 14:10
 19:3 22:12
 25:2,18 28:18
 30:14 32:16
 34:18 46:8
 56:1 63:23
 67:11,13 70:13
 71:5
type 20:1 46:12
 47:20 69:23
 72:5 73:23
Tyus 14:15

U

U.S 34:17
unanimous 53:11
underpaid 24:7
 24:19
understand 7:22
 32:25 37:10,21
 61:9 66:7
 67:23 69:1
understanding
 21:23 73:4
understands
 59:19
unfortunate 47:1
unfortunately
 21:16 22:2
 23:6 52:1
unique 47:18
unit 6:21 16:22
 17:1,22 18:9
 39:6
United 47:18
unstable 69:20
unthinkable 38:2
untreated 43:14
 43:16
upcoming 18:2
update 26:25
 50:13,16
upgrade 17:17
upgrades 18:13
upstairs 6:5
upwards 28:22
use 39:6 42:7,8
 51:18 67:8
usual 16:12
usually 29:1

V

vacation 33:14
 33:16
valiant 52:22
variance 19:8,8
 20:13 22:14
varying 20:22
vehicle 42:8
vehicles 37:22
 42:9 76:2
venues 40:6
 67:20
vetting 38:17,18
 38:24
vice 3:21 11:7
victim's 72:9
victimize 51:24
 52:1
view 20:1
vigorously 30:13
 51:18
violence 11:22
 14:23
violent 13:17
 36:25
visionary 69:15
 69:22
visual 5:8
voice 29:16
 58:14
volumes 44:8
vote 53:7 59:6,7
voted 59:4,9
 61:3,4
voting 65:24
vulnerable 58:25

W

wait 37:7,11
 62:20
waited 25:21
waiting 37:21
wake 71:20
Walbor 6:21
Waldis 14:4
walk 20:3
walk-through
 19:7
walking 21:9
 47:21
want 5:8,14 7:6
 11:11 14:19

15:10 19:2
 24:17 25:12
 26:5,12 29:16
 29:23 30:13
 32:4,8,18
 33:21,21,23,24
 34:15 35:2,11
 35:13,17 36:2
 44:14,17 45:2
 45:13 46:6,11
 46:16 47:25
 48:5,10,17,21
 49:23 57:5
 58:14 59:18
 60:14 61:1,13
 61:15 62:12
 63:22 64:17,19
 66:4 68:8 70:7
wanted 16:20
 23:4 37:4
 41:11 45:1
 48:8 50:22
 61:21,23 70:18
wants 31:20 46:4
Warwick 5:12
Washington 35:15
 35:16
watching 58:1
way 22:7 34:1
 36:7 37:23
 42:25 50:16
 53:15 65:23
 68:18 70:12
 72:11 75:20
Wayne 42:15,17
 47:7,7 67:5
 77:3
we'll 3:12 6:19
 8:22 26:25,25
 64:14,20 67:9
we're 8:10 13:10
 13:12,12,15,16
 13:17,18 15:4
 15:13 17:3,11
 22:8,22,23,23
 23:23 26:11
 28:18 29:20
 30:12,14,17
 31:21 33:10
 34:4,24 35:4
 39:13 43:14
 44:24 46:12,13

48:9 50:13
 54:23,24 55:8
 56:4,11,12
 57:4,4,6,16,17
 59:2,4,14
 60:11 64:15
 66:3 71:11,15
 71:25 73:24
 74:9 75:11
we've 23:17,25
 24:1 28:13
 31:9,16 32:2
 35:10 45:7,12
 57:1 69:25
 70:19
weapon 41:19
 42:17 70:12
 72:13,15,16
weapons 40:22
 42:9,11
wears 26:9
Weather's 14:25
Weathers 15:9,13
 15:15
Weathers' 15:6
week 9:5 15:24
 32:14 37:14,14
 68:22,25 71:6
weeks 14:10,22
 18:3 25:18
 46:8 52:20
 56:1 70:22
weigh 56:7,7
 61:22
welcome 3:5
 16:25 34:12
 46:1
welcomed 17:2
welcoming 50:9
welfare 25:2
 69:12
went 14:13 15:4
 47:1,6 69:20
west 28:3 67:6
Westside 16:24
whatsoever 64:7
White 5:13 46:12
White's 46:7
William 2:10
 3:14
Williams 5:9
 77:5,20

Willie 2:5,9
 3:22 27:18,23
 43:5 61:7,10
Winter 47:15
wish 29:4 45:20
 68:19
withdraw 60:10
withdrawn 53:7
witness 77:9,11
woman 26:9
women 32:16
 48:11,14
wonder 31:3 54:8
work 5:8 13:24
 14:4,8 18:9
 22:17 26:7
 29:23 32:1,5
 50:20 52:13
 53:22 54:12
 56:11 57:21
 58:23,24 66:8
 76:4
worked 23:17
 24:1 55:21
 75:21
working 17:23
 18:6 21:24
 34:11 55:5
 57:4 74:23
workings 22:5
world 31:11
wound 14:10
wrap 22:18
wrong 40:5
Wyrick 52:20

X

x 31:2
XL 10:3 12:3

Y

yeah 35:24 40:12
 43:3 49:10
year 8:5,11,12
 14:5 17:6 18:1
 18:5 19:10,20
 19:24 21:1
 22:18,25 23:3
 24:4,11 30:25
 43:20 72:24
year's 23:22
year-end 17:9

22:12,19
year-to-date
 13:9 17:5
years 10:7 12:7
 24:7 28:18
 30:9,14 34:18
 40:17,21 68:10
 74:23 75:21
Yep 26:22
yesterday 33:3
York 28:10
young 31:4 35:9
 40:13 41:8
 47:2 48:3,22
Young's 49:9

Z

0

1

1 2:7 67:1
10 31:2 58:1
10:00 7:13,15,17
 7:18
100 70:25 75:12
100% 76:10
11 11:16 31:2
 44:18
12% 13:15
125 70:25
1301 1:14 67:2
15 4:19,24
17 9:17 25:22
1850 46:19
1950 46:19
1975 46:22
1976 47:11
1992 43:1
1997 9:17 11:16
1st 18:1

2

2 2:11 59:8,20
 67:17
2:58 3:3
2010 63:9
2017 43:20
2018 1:11 3:2
 4:8,12,19,25
 7:21 15:15
 65:2 67:1

21 10:7 12:7
 22 1:11 3:2 4:8
 4:12
 23% 13:14
 23rd 7:14
 25% 13:17 23:5
 69:8
 26 7:21
 28 74:23
 28th 45:5

3

3 2:8
 3% 13:10,16
 3:00 1:11 67:1
 3:03 3:11
 36th 68:9

4

4 2:5
 4:50 76:25
 48203 1:15

5

5 2:9 52:4
 50% 68:4
 500 70:23
 500,000 51:15
 57:17 58:5
 59:5 60:3,5
 63:23

6

6 2:3
 6% 13:12
 6:30 67:4
 60% 13:19
 6253 77:20

7

7 2:10 38:16
 70% 43:11 71:23
 70s 75:24

8

8 67:4
 8% 13:17
 80% 43:11
 801 67:6

9

9/11 39:7

9/15/2022 77:23