



CITY OF GREENVILLE POLICE

# MEDIA RELEASE

4 MCGEE STREET, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29601

**RELEASING OFFICIAL :** Media Relations Officer Gilberto Z. Franco

**DATE :** July 10, 2016

**RELEASE NUMBER :** 16-22

**RELEASE TOPIC :** Black Lives Matter Demonstration Incident

**Greenville S.C** – In response to the violence this past week in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Texas, a group of individuals identifying with Black Lives Matter gathered in downtown Greenville on the evenings of July 8 and 9 to demonstrate. While the demonstrations did not fully comply with local ordinances, the Greenville Police Department permitted the demonstrations to occur in the interest of defusing tension associated with these high-profile national incidents.

Officers worked diligently both evenings to safeguard the demonstrators. After the first day's events seriously disrupted traffic and Main Street Friday's jazz event, the Police Department worked with Black Lives Matter organizers to pre-plan a route and to ensure that organizers and marchers were aware of, and complied with, ordinances and laws.

Saturday's demonstration was initially peaceful and orderly, but deteriorated as demonstrators refused to remain on the sidewalks, flooded the streets, and blocked sidewalks, businesses and intersections. The situation became serious when about 150 individuals decided to block major roadways downtown, including Beattie Place and Church Street. As police prepared to make arrests at that location in order to clear the illegally blocked roadway, the demonstrators vocalized their intent to completely shut down I-385 and began to move from Church Street in the direction of the highway.

For the safety of the demonstrators, the motoring public, and officers, the Police Department halted the group at the intersection of I-385 and Academy Street. Despite repeated directions to stop, move out of the roadway, and to disperse for their safety and the safety of others, demonstrators attempted to push through the line of police, resulting in the arrests of five individuals. With the assistance of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, and the South Carolina Highway Patrol, the Greenville Police Department dispersed the remaining demonstrators.

The engagement resulted in Taser deployment against one demonstrator who was actively fighting and choking a Greenville Police Officer. Beyond injuries typically associated with use of a Taser, there were no other injuries to demonstrators or Police, Sheriff, or SChP.

It is important to note that this demonstration exceeded legal limitations, moved beyond the realm of sharing protected speech, and endangered adults and children. On both days, the group disregarded repeated police requests for a safe demonstration, refusing



PFC Gilberto Franco, Media Relations Officer  
Phone (864) 467-5022, Fax (864) 467-4317

[gfranco@greenvillesc.gov](mailto:gfranco@greenvillesc.gov) website: [www.police.greenvillesc.gov](http://www.police.greenvillesc.gov)





CITY OF GREENVILLE POLICE

# MEDIA RELEASE

4 MCGEE STREET, GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA 29601

to leave private property, disrupting traffic, disrupting other City events, refusing to obey ordinances and laws, and often changing pre-set plans without informing the police.

Because of the repeated unlawful conduct exhibited in these recent demonstrations, as well as the City's interest in maintaining peace and order, the Police Department is providing notice that it will manage future demonstrations consistent with the City's picketing ordinance (attached).

In the midst of grieving for the victims of our recent tragedies, and at a time when police and community should be coming together on common ground to seek solutions, it is disappointing that the protestors were unwilling to commit to peaceful and orderly demonstrations.

The Greenville Police Department is dedicated to policing fairly and impartially. We will continue working with our communities to ensure they are safe places to live, work, and visit, ensuring that all within our City are treated with dignity and respect. To be successful, we will continue to need the cooperation and support of our community.

---

---

Demonstrators arrested, and their respective charges, include:

Derrick Quarles, DOB: 06-15-1987

Creating a Public Nuisance, Pedestrian in the Roadway (three counts), and an unrelated felony warrant for Obtaining Goods by False Pretense

Dexter Scarborough, DOB: 03-10-1993

Attempted Murder, Assault and Battery on Police while Resisting Arrest, Pedestrian in the Roadway, and Disorderly Conduct.

Brandon Johnson, DOB: 06-02-1985

Pedestrian in the Roadway, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest.

Tenealya Littlejohn, DOB: 09-04-1989

Pedestrian in the Roadway, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest.

Shatercia Neal, DOB: 07-24-1990

Pedestrian in the Roadway, Disorderly Conduct, and Resisting Arrest.

---

---



PFC Gilberto Franco, Media Relations Officer

Phone (864) 467-5022, Fax (864) 467-4317

[gfranco@greenvillesc.gov](mailto:gfranco@greenvillesc.gov) website: [www.police.greenvillesc.gov](http://www.police.greenvillesc.gov)



Sec. 36-142. - Picketing.

(a) Conduct of picketing; penalty. For purposes of this section, picketing means an organized effort to express publicly a point of view at a given place with signs, oral statements, or the like in a systematic manner, which involves walking or standing in the same area for a prolonged period of time. Peaceful picketing in the furtherance of a lawful purpose shall be allowed in the city in public places without a permit being required, provided the picketing is done under the following conditions:

(1) Picketing may be conducted only on the sidewalks or other city-owned areas or right-of-way normally used or reserved for pedestrian movement, and may not be conducted on the portion of a street used primarily for vehicular traffic.

(2) Such picketers may carry written or printed placards or signs, provided the placards and staffs or poles to which they are attached do not interfere with the free use of the sidewalk by other pedestrians. Such placards, with reasonable use, shall be deemed to comply if they do not exceed 20 inches by 30 inches or 600 square inches. Such staffs and poles, with reasonable use, shall be deemed to comply if they are made of wood, do not exceed 40 inches in length, are not more than one inch in diameter, and are blunt at each end. Placards, staffs and poles exceeding these dimensions, and staffs and poles having pointed ends, are presumed threats to safety.

(3) Such picketers must march single file and not congregate so as to block the sidewalk or any driveway.

(4) If picketers without permits who are promoting different objectives desire to use the same area for picketing, the police department shift commander shall allot time to each group of picketers for the use of the same or nearby area on an equitable basis, provided reasonable accommodation is made for picketing for the other group in close proximity to the preferred location, and each group shall be permitted to picket at the preferred location, subject to the provisions of this section, in alternating four-hour time periods.

(5)

Picketing done contrary to this section shall be unlawful, and each individual in violation shall be subject to a fine of up to \$50.00 for the first offense, and a fine of up to \$100.00 for the second and subsequent offenses within a period of two years.

(b)

Interference with pickets. It shall be unlawful for any person to interfere physically with such pickets in the use of the sidewalk or address profane, indecent, abusive or threatening language to or at such pickets or others to breach the peace.

(c)

Crowd dispersal. A shift commander or supervisor of the police department of the city may, in the event of the assemblage of persons in such numbers as to tend to intimidate picketers pursuing their lawful objective through numbers alone or through use of inflammatory words or threatening gestures that are ordinarily used to intimidate people, direct the dispersal of persons so assembled, and any police officer may arrest any person who fails to leave the place of assemblage when so directed by the police.

(d)

Restrictions. Persons engaging in picketing activity cannot do so inside an area designated as an event area for which a permit has been granted to another individual or group under this article, if the picketing behavior has the effect of interfering with, hampering, hindering, or getting in the way of those participating in the permitted event in accordance with its purposes or with the general public making use of the space for its ordinary and customary purposes. Whenever any police officer or municipal employee charged with monitoring or supervising event activity determines the picketing behavior is interfering with, hampering, hindering, or getting the way of others as provided in this section, then the officer or employee may direct the picketers to relocate to other public space in reasonable proximity where such conduct can continue, if lawful, so long as the picketing does not interfere with, hamper, hinder, or get in the way of persons participating in the event for its intended purposes or of members of the general public making use of the public space for its ordinary and customary purposes.

(Code 1985, § 5-11-42; Code 1997, § 36-142; Ord. No. 96-3, § 1, 2-12-1996; Ord. No. 2008-19, 2-25-2008)

Sec. 36-132. - Enforcement of other laws.

Nothing contained in this article shall prohibit the authority of any officer to arrest a person engaged in any act or activity granted under this article, if the conduct of such person violates the laws of the state, provisions of this Code, or other ordinances of the city, or unreasonably obstructs the public streets and sidewalks of the city, or if such person engages in acts that cause or would tend to cause a breach of the peace, or undue disturbance, interference, or molestation of other persons making lawful use of the space in a peaceful manner.

Sec. 42-46. - Obstruction of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

(a) Prohibited.

(1) It shall be unlawful for any person within the city to obstruct any public street, public highway, public sidewalk or other public place or building by hindering or impeding, or tending to hinder or impede, the free and uninterrupted passage of vehicles, traffic or pedestrians when such conduct occurs in any public place.

(2) As used in this subsection, the term "public place" shall be defined as any place to which the general public has access and the right to resort for business, entertainment or other lawful purpose. It shall also include the front or immediate area of any store, shop, restaurant, tavern or other place of business, and also public grounds or areas, public streets or public sidewalks.

(b) Enforcement. When any person causes or permits any of the conditions enumerated in subsection (a) of this section, a police officer or any law enforcement officer shall order that person to stop causing or committing such conditions and to move on, disperse and/or leave the premises. Any person who fails or refuses to obey such order shall be guilty of a violation of this section.

(c) Interpretation. This section shall not be construed so as to prohibit any lawful use of the public right-of-way.

(Code 1985, § 7-6-6760; Code 1997, § 42-46)