

A visual depiction of how the GRPD has tried to control the narrative about public safety since the May 30th rebellion in Grand Rapids



May 30th protest in Grand Rapids was primarily non-violent.....

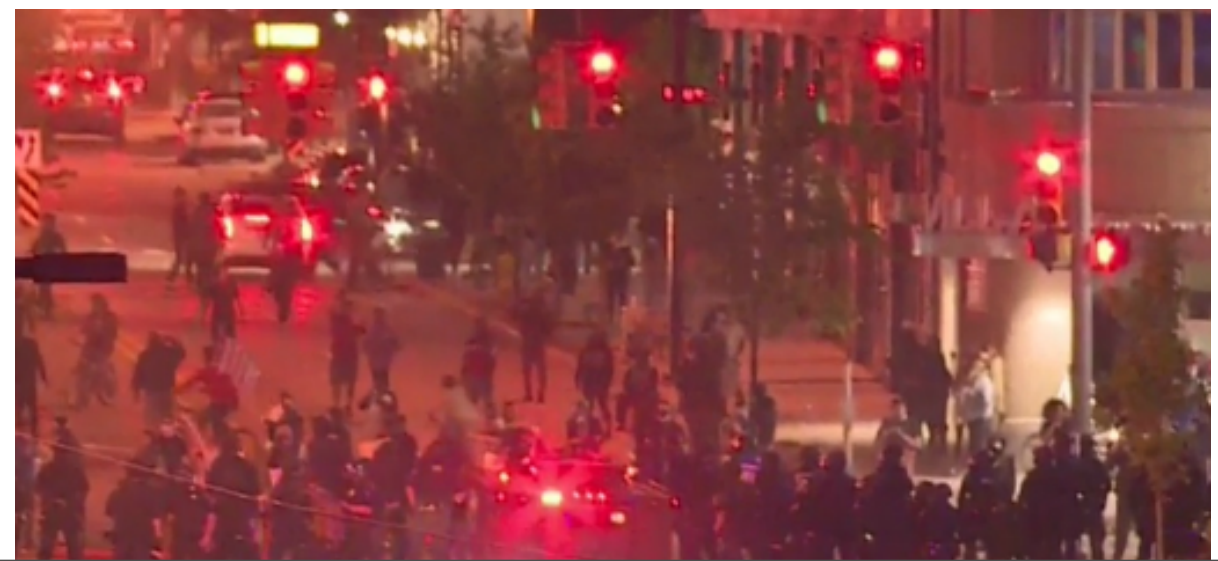
..... but the GRPD made it confrontational.....



..... and based on numerous first hand accounts, the GRPD provoked those protesting



.....which led to a more militant rebellion.



CITY COMMISSION RESOLUTION unanimously adopted on June 2, 2020 - WHEREAS: 1. Ongoing unlawful assembly and civil disorder beginning on May 30, 2020 has result in property damage and imminent threats of substantial harm to our community; and 2. To date the City of Grand Rapids has taken numerous actions to respond and protect against this threat; and 3. On May 31, 2020 Mayor Rosalynn Bliss issued a 48-hour Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency to Further Protect Public Health and Safety; and 37 CITY COMMISSION JUNE 2, 2020 4. Pursuant to Chapter 161 of the City Code of Ordinances, a state of civil emergency may be extended by resolution of the City Commission for such additional periods of time as determined necessary. RESOLVED: 1. That the City Commission deems it reasonable and necessary to continue the state of civil emergency in order to continue the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite response and resources. 2. That the state of civil emergency shall continue until 11:59 pm June 16, 2020 or until a proclamation by the Mayor that a state of civil emergency no longer exists, whichever occurs first; provided, however, that such state of civil emergency may be extended for such additional periods of time as determined necessary by further resolution of the City Commission. 3. That this resolution continues any and all authority delegated to the Mayor by any and all emergency management, public health and other pertinent laws to issue any and all oral and written directives that the Mayor, upon the advice of public safety and health and other expert officials, reasonably deem necessary to respond to and protect our community.



The Michigan National Guard joins the GRPD to suppress dissent, by blocking off part of the downtown, by enforcing a curfew put in place by the Mayor of Grand Rapids and by arresting several people who were deliberately challenging the curfew policy.

Police disperse riotous end of Black Lives Matter protest in downtown Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids leaders continue state of civil emergency, curfew no longer in effect

Volunteers fill downtown Grand Rapids for riot cleanup

Small businesses remain community-focused despite damage

State of civil emergency extended for Grand Rapids

GRID conducted a 5 day study of news coverage from May 30th - June 3rd.

The 5 day study looked at MLive, WOODTV8, WZZM 13 and WXMI 17, with 4 major findings:

1. Biased and misleading headlines
2. The primary sources used in the news coverage were City officials, the GRPD, downtown business owners and those assisting in the clean up, all more than those who organized and participated in the protests.
3. All four news sources studied internalized the values of the systems of power and tended to condemn those who disobeyed the GRPD or engaged in property destruction.




Protests continued for several days following the May 30th rebellion, but Chief Payne began to convince some of those protesting to obey the GRPD and then he took a knee with protesters, thus attempting to undermine the seriousness of these protests against White Supremacy, using the opportunity to engage in a Public Relations campaign.

The narrative now shifted to whether or not protests were "peaceful" moving the focus on the behavior of those protesting from the behavior of the GRPD.



Digital Town Hall – June 10, 2020

- Improve use of force policy by explicitly banning chokeholds
- Improve our policy requiring officers to situations, where possible, by commun subjects, maintaining distance and other the need to use force
- Require officers to give a verbal warning in all situations whenever possible before using deadly force
- Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives, including non-force and less-lethal force options, before resorting to deadly force
- Improve our policy by requiring officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor
- Update the policy on banning officers from shooting at moving vehicles (GRPD previously banned this practice)
- Make sure all uniformed officers have names on all uniforms while in public to include events involving civil



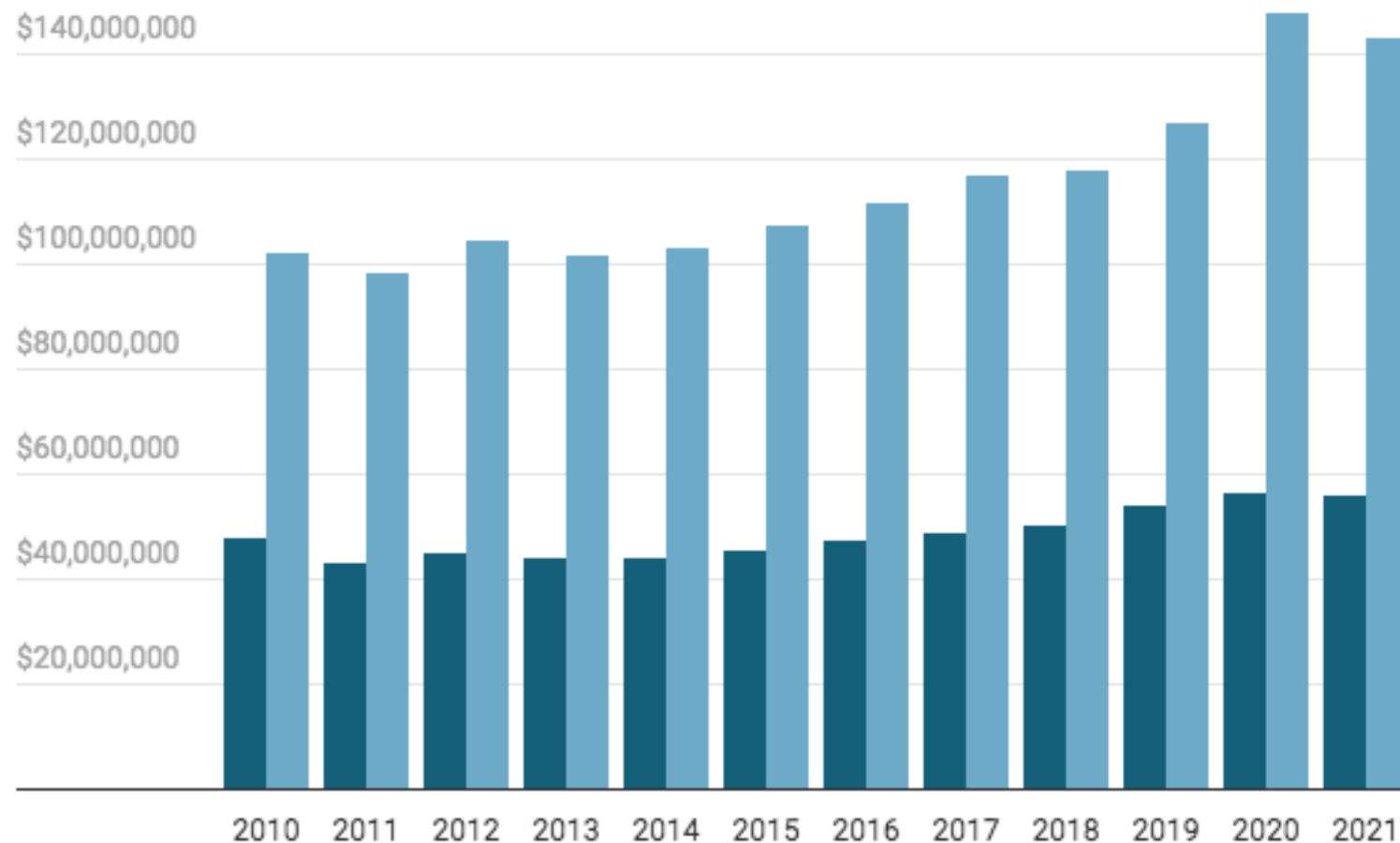
The GRPD holds a Press Conference on June 10 at noon, discussing their reformists plans, then hosts a digital town hall meeting that evening, where Chief Payne, the City Manager and the new Office of Oversight & Accountability all spoke about they were committed to improving the GRPD.

That same day, on June 10th, the local Defund the GRPD campaign, which had only begun 2 days earlier, had already organized 1000 letters sent to City officials to begin to defund the Grand Rapids Police Department.

DEFUND
DISARM
DISBAND
THE GRPD

Grand Rapids Police Department Funding by Fiscal Year

■ Police ■ Total General Operating Funding spending



2020 and 2021 budgets are shown as adopted.

On June 16th, it was reported that Grand Rapids City officials had received 2500 letters calling for the defunding of the GRPD.

On June 18th, the Grand Rapids Police Officer's Association released a 2 - page document denouncing any efforts to defund the GRPD, claiming that the most vulnerable in the City would suffer the most.



GRPOA

**GRAND RAPIDS
POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

"Protecting those who protect ~~us all~~" **Power**



On June 25th, DeFund the GRPD held a Press Conference with a list of demands. By this date, DeFund the GRPD had reached 3000 letters sent by the community to City officials, calling for defunding the GRPD.



On June 27th, the local news media reported that the GRPD would not take action against the police officer who shot a civilian on May 30th with a 40mm chemical round, plus the Kent County prosecutor would not be filing charges against the officer based on State law, which allows for cops to use these kinds of weapons during civil strife.





WE STAND BESIDE YOU!

Co-hosted by Tom Norton for Congress

Unwavering commitment to be the voice for law enforcement in all ways possible as well as collaborating with communities to build trust and improved communication.



Some of the signs from the pro-police rally in Grand Rapids

On June 30th, the group, Voice for the Badge, held a pro-police rally at Calder Plaza, where Chief Payne spoke. Almost everyone there was white, with American flags and signs like All Lives Matter, despite it being called a Unity Rally.





Several public expressions of calls for defunding the GRPD, during the July 4th weekend.





On July 8th, the City Attorney, at the behest of City Manager Mark Washington, told City Commissioners that they could not defund the GRPD, despite the efforts of at least 3 commissioners who wanted to move forward on that issue, since they had been hearing from thousands of residents to Defund the GRPD.

Local News Media acts as a PR agent for the GRPD

"I, along with the community, continue to be saddened by the death of Breonna Taylor and understand the concerns about how her life was lost," Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Payne said. "That is why I am actively working to improve community safety in Grand Rapids. I want this to be a city where all people feel safe and are safe at all times throughout our community."

"Public safety is our top priority," Payne continued. "Blocking traffic at major intersections is not safe for participants or motorists. The last thing we want is for someone to get hurt or to arrest anyone for trying to exercise their right to free speech. Such gatherings should be coordinated with our special events office. A special event permit can help avoid confusion and protect the public's safety."



On July 12, the news media published 2 stories that were essentially media releases from the GRPD. In first story, Chief Payne referred to graffiti, like the image on the left here, as using bullying and intimidation tactics.

In the second story (see above), Chief Payne says he wants everyone to be safe and that protesters should coordinate with his office and obtain permits in the future.

- ★ **Tracey Brame** – Assistant Dean at WMU – Colley Law School. Brame started the Access to Justice Clinic at WMU-Cooley and teaches courses in Family Law, Race and the Supreme Court, and the Death Penalty.
- ★ **Marco Bulnes** – Mayan Buzz Cafe, Mayan Industries LLC
- ★ **Ja’Von Fields** – Newly elected President of the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP Youth Council. His involvement with the NAACP ranges from being President of his local branch, to Juvenile Justice Chair of the MI State Youth & College Division, and a certified Trainer of the National NAACP Youth & College Division.
- ★ **Willie Gholston** – Senior Pastor at First Community AME Church in Grand Rapids
- ★ **Larry Johnson** – former GRPD officer, now the head of Public Safety & Security for the Grand Rapids Public Schools
- ★ **Raynard Ross** – Associate Dean at GRCC and members of the Board of Education for the Grand Rapids Public Schools.



On July 15, the GRPD choses members for its Community Police Advisory Council, which reflects a tactic of respectability politics, including even a former cop.



On July 17th, the GRPD held a press conference with city officials and community leaders to talk about the rise in gun violence. This is exactly what the GRPD and City officials needed to put an end to any serious look at defunding the GRPD.

On July 20th, the City Manager, Mark Washington, announced that the GRPD would be adding mental health workers to work with the Grand Rapids Police Department.

While some saw this an important step forward, others saw this as problematic. Based on the data from a study done in 2019, seen here on the right, a great deal of calls could be diverted to 311 services, which would de-escalate most situations, where the presence of armed officers means the opposite.

Most Common Calls for Service by Category	
Incident Type Description	Citywide
Disorderly	6,255
Domestic Argument - No Assault	4,616
Alarm	4,050
Suspicious Condition/Noise/Subject	4,039
Parking Violation	3,657
Welfare Check	3,449
Traffic Crash - Property Damage	3,215
Assist	2,962
Assault	2,099
Domestic Assault	1,844
Traffic Crash - Property Damage Hit & Run	1,767
Noise Complaint - Music, Construction, Other	1,727
Larceny	1,265
Suicide - Threat with No Injury	1,088



On July 23rd, City Manager Mark Washington announced that the GRPD would be presenting their first draft of the new strategic plan on August 11th, but Washington has already made it clear that he would not consider any new cuts to the GRPD budget, based on the summary points listed below.

- The City's FY2021 approved budget was \$22 million less than FY2020 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.
- The general fund portion of the police department's budget was reduced by \$1.1 million – the largest department budget reduction. This resulted in a decreased FY2021 general fund police budget compared to FY2020.
- The \$1.1 million reduction made during the budget process and the additional \$403,000 cut made earlier this month total \$1.53 million and equates to 63% of the department's overtime budget, or roughly 15 officers.
- This adjustment, along with the fact the 327-person police department staff is lower than the millennium high of 369, is an indication of staffing divestment despite the city's population growth.
- Since personnel accounts for more than 80% of the police department's budget, further reductions likely would result in layoffs. Personnel changes must be carefully determined.
- The end is not known for the economic recession as a result of COVID-19 or the pandemic itself. It is not wise to make drastic changes without a clear picture of expected revenue and expenditures.

TOM NORTON

FOR CONGRESS

**The Grand Rapids
Police Officer's
Association
endorsement of Tom
Norton for Congress
makes complete
sense, since the
GRPOA and Norton
support the same
police state politics of
the Trump
administration.**



On July 27th, the Grand Rapids Police Officer's Association, which is the union that represents those who serve in the GRPD, announced their endorsement with a campaign contribution, to Tom Norton, running for the 3rd Congressional seat.

In addition to being an ardent Trump supporter, Norton embraces many White Supremacist views and has nothing but contempt for Black Lives Matter.

You're Invited

Greater Grand Rapids ALPACT Chapter Community Panel Discussion



Behind every mask there is a story...

**Let's hear what the Grand Rapids Area Police Chiefs have to say
as they share their stories...**

Monday August 3, 2020

6:00pm – 7:30pm

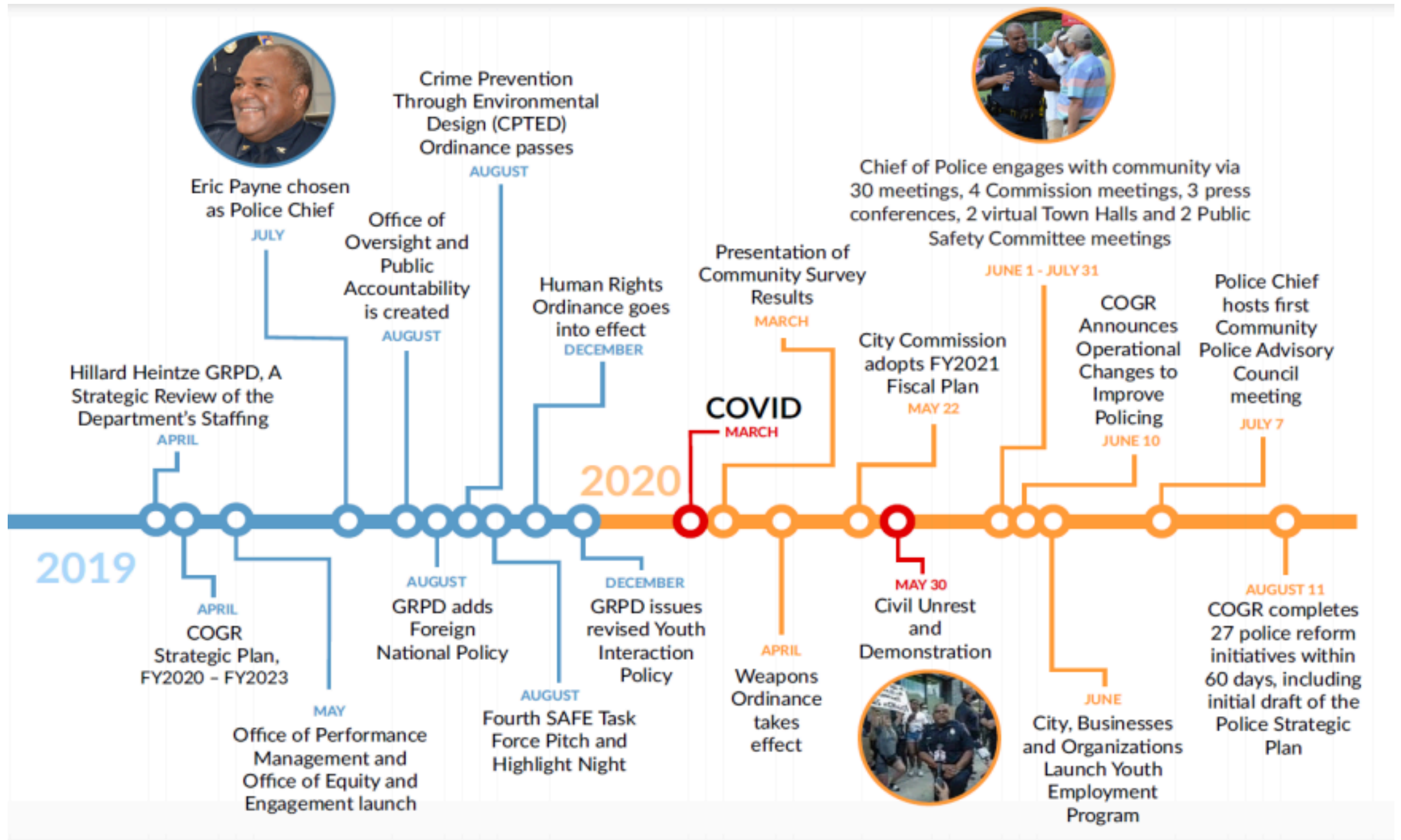
Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Moderated by: Rodney
Robinson, GGR ALPACT Co-
chair and
Brandon DeHaan, GVSU Chief
of Police**

Panel of Area Chiefs:

**Eric Payne, Grand Rapids PD
Chris McIntire, MSP
Richard Roberts, Kentwood PD
Michelle Young, Kent County
Sheriff
Kimberly Koster, Wyoming PD
Paul Anglim, Grandville PD**

On August 3rd, the group known as the Greater Grand Rapids ALPACT Chapter, would be hosting a forum, which featured an all police panel.



Just before the August 11 City Commission meeting, the GRPD releases their Strategic Plan, which included this timeline, which does nothing other than praise what the GRPD has done.

The GRPD conducted a survey at the exact same time as their new strategic plan was being presented to City officials, on August 11.

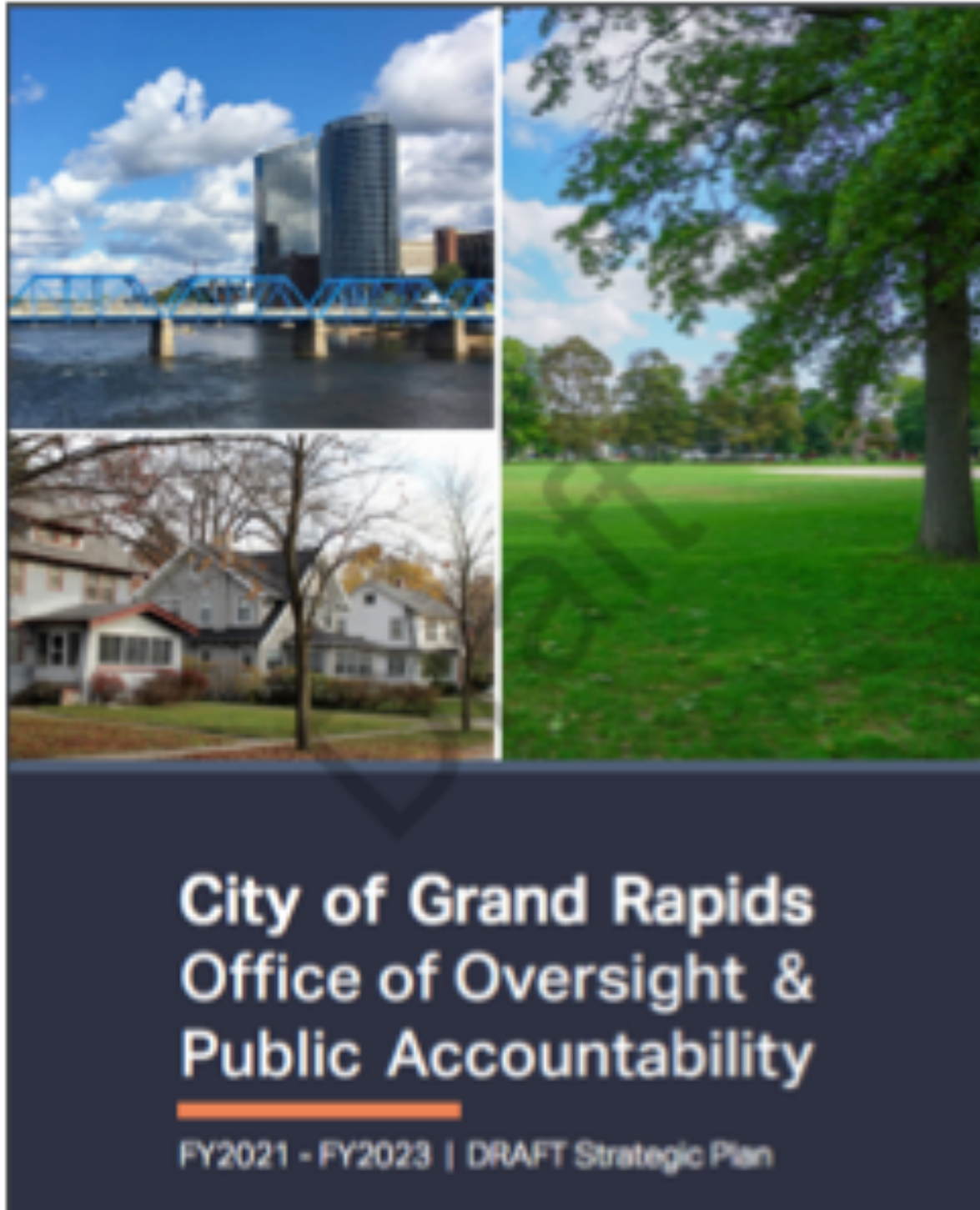
The survey is now closed.





Justice for Black Lives held a solidarity action on August 22nd in downtown Grand Rapids. There was a group of Q'Anon demonstrators in the same area make threats against the JFBL protesters. The GRPD officer who came threatened to arrest people with JFBL. The GRPD cop also had no body camera on.

How the OPA document actually looks like.....how it should look.



The Office of Oversight and Public Accountability released their report on August 30th, which lays out their plans on how to hold the GRPD accountable, while simultaneously working with them.

On September 22nd, the GRPD sent out a Media Release about their community engagement practices, which the local news reported on without any questions.



Justice for Black Lives held a march and action on September 23rd, in solidarity with the people in Kentucky who had just found out that the Grand Jury decided to not indict any of the cops who killed Breanna Taylor.

The GRPD had prepared for another potential rebellion.

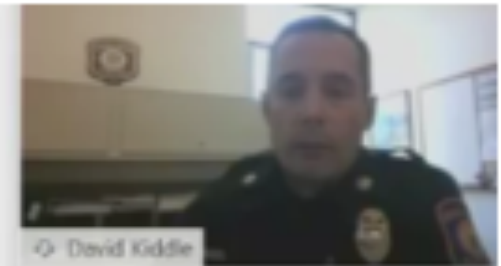




On **October 8th**, the Kent County Commission first announced that they wanted to give the City of Grand Rapids \$500,000 for ShotSpotter, **using CARES Act funding**. There was an **October 13th** presentation to the City Commission by Officer David Kittle, but no timeline on public engagement. On **October 22nd**, the Kent County Commission formally agreed, through a unanimous decision, to give \$500,000 of CARES Act funding to the City of Grand Rapids for ShotSpotter.

Kent County CARES Funding for Crime Prevention Work

- Kent County COVID Relief Subcommittee has recommended \$500,000 for gunshot detection technology for the City of Grand Rapids with requirement for project completion and expenditure by end of the year
 - Board of Commissioners will consider this allocation on October 22
- ShotSpotter: Series of sensors positioned within a defined area that detect gunfire sounds, initiate an expert review by an external center that confirms the sounds were gunfire, pinpoints the location within 8 ft and notifies the police within 45 seconds
- Gunfire incidents (2020 versus 2019 for January through September)
 - Willful Killing – Gun: Up 166%
 - Aggravated Assault – Gun: Up 42%
 - Weapon Firing (confirmed): Up 215%
 - Shots Fired (unconfirmed): Up 110%
- Shot Spotter national research shows only 20% of shots fired are reported



WTF?



The City of Grand Rapids/GRPD first announced 2 town hall meetings on **October 29**, to discuss ShotSpotter. The 2 meetings were scheduled for Nov. 2nd and Nov. 5th. During the **Nov. 5th** GRPD town hall meeting, Chief Payne said that

Grand Rapids could not use CARES Act funding for ShotSpotter. He went on to say this: ***We will find funding for ShotSpotter within our budget. It is only contingent upon City Commission approval. We will have to take this before fiscal and the entire City Commission to get approval, because it is new technology that would come to Grand Rapids and it would have to get approval. Thus, that is why we are holding these town hall meetings and trying to engage the community to be as transparent as we can. I mentioned in my opening that this is not a magic wand that is going to reduce all the gun violence we are seeing, but I do see it as a very important part of everything that is possible for us moving forward in reducing the amount of violence that is occurring within the community.***



In another attempt to influence public opinion and deflect any criticism of the GRPD, the Grand Rapids Police Officer's Association paid to have several billboards put up around Grand Rapids, like the one here above.

SAY **NO** TO

 **ShotSpotter®**

**SURVEILLANCE
TECHNOLOGY
IN OUR COMMUNITIES!**

Defund the GRPD created an action alert which has sent hundreds of letters to City officials, plus they collaborated with Justice for Black Lives in doing direct action outside of the homes of City Commissioners that are in favor of ShotSpotter.



Links to support the visual narrative presented in this document

<https://griid.org/2020/05/31/dont-let-the-system-control-the-narrative-on-the-black-lives-matter-protest-in-grand-rapids/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/05/how-the-local-commercial-news-coverage-has-hijacked-the-narrative-around-black-lives-matter-protests-in-grand-rapids/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/07/is-there-really-any-such-thing-as-a-peaceful-protest/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/11/they-are-going-to-do-what-they-want-grand-rapids-the-grpd-and-the-illusion-of-democracy/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/18/grand-rapids-police-officers-association-releases-statement-against-the-calls-for-defunding-the-grpd/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/26/defund-the-grpd-campaign-makes-clear-demands-on-the-city-of-grand-rapids-during-press-conference/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/28/local-news-reports-cop-exonerated-from-shooting-civilian-with-40mm-chemical-round-during-the-may-30-uprising-in-grand-rapids-but-fails-to-discuss-the-riot-control-industrial-complex/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/30/local-news-coverage-of-so-called-unity-rally-in-grand-rapids-makes-it-clear-it-was-nothing-more-than-a-pro-police-event/>

<https://griid.org/2020/06/29/unity-event-is-really-a-pro-police-all-lives-matter-rally-in-grand-rapids/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/08/grand-rapids-city-officials-deception-and-defunding-the-grpd/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/13/grand-rapids-news-media-acts-as-a-conduit-for-the-grpd-twice-in-the-same-day/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/16/the-grpd-respectability-politics-vs-community-control-over-public-safety/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/23/what-is-problematic-about-the-recent-announcement-from-grand-rapids-to-have-mental-health-workers-collaborate-with-the-grpd/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/28/grand-rapids-police-officers-association-endorses-the-most-far-right-candidate-running-for-the-3rd-congressional-district/>

<https://griid.org/2020/07/29/grand-rapids-is-using-bureaucratic-management-to-further-marginalize-the-defund-the-grpd-campaign/>

<https://griid.org/2020/08/02/when-will-we-stop-centering-cop-voices-confronting-the-white-liberal-view-of-policing/>

<https://griid.org/2020/08/10/grpd-strategic-plan-placates-those-unaffected-by-police-violence-insults-the-rest-of-us/>

<https://griid.org/2020/08/12/setting-the-parameters-for-input-by-controlling-the-narrative-the-grpd-strategic-plan-survey/>

<https://griid.org/2020/08/31/how-best-to-police-the-grpd-not-with-incremental-reformism-no-autonomy-and-no-community-control/>

<https://griid.org/2020/09/23/the-local-news-media-continues-to-be-a-press-agent-for-the-grpd/>

<https://griid.org/2020/09/24/the-grpd-planned-for-another-riot-in-the-wake-of-no-justice-for-breonna-taylor-action/>

<https://griid.org/2020/10/14/kent-county-commission-collaborates-with-grand-rapids-city-commission-to-redirect-cares-act-funds-to-the-grpd-while-thousands-of-families-in-the-area-are-fighting-to-stay-alive/>

<https://griid.org/2020/11/08/grpd-moves-forward-on-shotspotter-technology-ignoring-public-concerns-and-minimizing-community-opposition/>