reganatorrrr@gmail.com

From: Lydia M. Rhodes <rhodeslaw.lydia@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Adrian Perkins
Subject: Community & Police Relations
Attachments: Kniepp v. City of Shreveport, 609 So.2d 1163 (La. App. 1992).pdf

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Please pass this on to Mayor Perkins - thanks.

Mayor Perkins:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the police actions in Minneapolis. Chief Raymond has some work to do with his officers if Sgt. Mason is training officers to work under the idea that what we saw on tape was a "mistake." Frankly that is a weak explanation of what he might be teaching as "qualified immunity." I hope no one relies on his interpretation of the law. Also, he misstated the facts that are known at this time. Mason should not be training or supervising any officers, nor should he ever be called upon to judge the actions of an officer in an excessive force or other incident raising constitutional issues.

At this moment, it reminds me of the infamous Cedar Grove "riot." I've attached the Louisiana Court of Appeals opinion from the lawsuit that followed. The opinion contains a good summary of what happened, why it happened and the appropriate response. I urge you to share this court opinion.

I'd also like to share two resources we used at in 1988: the Department of Justice Community Resource Center mediation services and a wonderful person named Gus Taylor (I'm sure he's no longer there). He helped us diffuse the community anger surrounding the initial criminal action that started the chain of events. We also participated with Police Executive Research Forum (a private "think tank" group) in a study of police decision making focused on the police management decisions the night of September 20, 1988. A study was subsequently published. It was an invaluable resource as PERF pulled every radio transmission, etc. to analyze the actions of that night.

I hope if faced with the aftermath of an injustice such as the killing of George Floyd that we will act with the same regard for human life as we did that night.

There's something very very wrong in this country. No one should look the other way.

With my best regards,

Lydia Rhodes

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