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PRESS CONFERENCE OF CITY OF CLEVELAND MAYOR
FRANK G. JACKSON, HELD AT CITY OF CLEVELAND CITY
HALL, 601 LAKESIDE AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014.

IN RE: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FINDINGS
REGARDING CLEVELAND POLICE

- - -

1 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, first of
2 all, I want to thank you for coming and the
3 reason I've asked for you to be here today,
4 because when I'm out at events or I'm doing
5 other press events, after I do an event, people
6 want to talk to me about the DOJ and other
7 things. And so what I say to people is that I
8 won't do it then, but I will have a time when I
9 can speak to everybody so everybody hears the
10 same thing at the same time.

11 And it's usually in three areas --
12 three areas that people will ask me about. One
13 is about the DOJ, its findings; the other one is
14 about -- is whether or not there is systemic
15 failure in the Division of Police; and the third
16 is about the demonstrations that have occurred
17 and -- and -- and their demands.

18 Now in the first one, in terms of DOJ,
19 we -- I know I do and -- and we as a city really
20 think this is a great opportunity. So we're not
21 -- we're not at all adverse to the Department of
22 Justice coming in and reviewing the Division of
23 Police. As a matter of fact, I and -- and
24 several other people have asked them to come in
25 shortly after the East Cleveland and the

1 shooting.

2 And we have been working with them with
3 our private consultant on the use of force even
4 before that. So -- so it's not -- we actually
5 welcome it. We think -- we think it's a good
6 thing. And -- and at the end of that process,
7 we will enter into a consent decree and we will
8 -- as part of that consent decree, we will be
9 under a monitor, which we're perfectly fine
10 with.

11 The only concern I have, however, as
12 you know, we -- part of going through the
13 process of developing a final consent decree is
14 -- is agreeing on what that will be. And -- and
15 -- and we will do that. And again, it will be
16 subject to a monitor.

17 The concern I have is I don't think it
18 goes far enough to be honest with you. It's
19 more -- to me there are problems in the Division
20 of Police that we need to address, but there are
21 also problems external to the Division of Police
22 that really has a great impact on -- on how
23 things happen internally.

24 And -- and I had asked before and --
25 and I continue to say that I just don't think

1 the Department of Justice in looking just at the
2 Division of Police is -- is going far enough.

3 The second thing that, again, is about
4 whether or not there is systemic failure in --
5 in the Division of Police. Those of you who
6 have talked to me about that, I continue to say
7 there is not systemic failure. There are
8 problems with our system.

9 And that the DOJ, even though we don't
10 agree on all the -- all of the findings or the
11 supporting data or examples they use to get
12 toward to those findings, it clearly points out
13 that -- that we have some problems that we will
14 agree to and we will agree to how to resolve
15 those problems as we enter into this consent
16 decree.

17 And the good thing about the monitor is
18 the monitor will take away the whole thing
19 about, "Well, I was here ten years ago and you
20 didn't do it." Well, now we'll have a monitor
21 to ensure that it is fully executed and
22 implemented.

23 But -- but in terms of systemic
24 failure, I maintain that there is no systemic
25 failure. There is significant problems that we

1 have to address. And -- and in that concept of
2 systemic failure, it -- it -- it implies a
3 relieving of people of the responsibility to
4 make decisions. And -- and I believe that
5 individuals make decisions in the Division of
6 Police and throughout the City and they should
7 be held accountable for those decisions if, in
8 fact, those decisions are not done according to
9 training and process and procedures of General
10 Police Order.

11 So do we have problems? Yes. Do we
12 have systemic failure? No. Do we demand that
13 people be held accountable? Yes. Individuals
14 should be held accountable for what they do.

15 And then finally in terms of the
16 demonstrators, I really want to commend the
17 demonstrators. I've -- really, they've
18 impressed me. They're young. They're young,
19 but they've impressed me on the way in which
20 they've conducted their demonstrations and the
21 sincerity of their demonstrations. They -- as
22 they say, they're young, so they see things in
23 black and white and whereas, we in -- in -- in
24 organizations, as you probably know, we --
25 sometimes we have a little cloud on -- on those

1 and it's not so black and white to us, because
2 there's a -- there's process and procedures we
3 have to go through.

4 Whereas, with the young demonstrators,
5 they just see it very clearly that they -- as to
6 how government should operate and -- and how it
7 should operate, particularly when it comes to
8 use of deadly force. And -- and I really
9 commend them by staying focused on that.

10 Now one of the things that they talked
11 about and they demonstrated and they commented
12 on is the resignation of the Director McGrath
13 and -- and Special Assistant Flask and -- and I
14 -- I fully appreciate their demonstrating on
15 that, even though we don't agree, but at the end
16 of the day, they had not lost sight of the
17 substance and the sincerity of their
18 demonstration.

19 And that is that they have a concern
20 about the use of force, particularly deadly
21 force, and -- and whether or not there's
22 accountability in that and -- and I -- and I
23 respect that and I respect their sincerity in
24 that. And also, the way in which they've
25 conducted themselves in -- in doing the

1 demonstration.

2 Other than that, that's pretty much --
3 I think I've addressed all of what people have
4 talked to me about, but I know there are other
5 things that you may want to talk to me about, so
6 I'll gladly -- now, I'm -- I'm going -- I'm
7 going -- I'm going to do it like I do community
8 meetings. You were first, so and then we'll
9 move around.

10 REPORTER 1: Mayor, the report
11 spent a lot of time discussing accountability --

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

13 REPORTER 1: -- and discussing
14 discipline. And the report expressed also what
15 seemed like astonishment at the very few folks
16 -- the officer who had been disciplined --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

18 REPORTER 1: -- for using
19 force, which he got really none, and in the
20 disciplinary process, it's either going to be
21 heard by the Chief or it's going to be heard by
22 the Safety Director depending on the severity --

23 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

24 REPORTER 1: -- of the
25 infraction.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: That's correct.

2 REPORTER 1: All right. So
3 when we're talking about accountability, don't
4 you hold the Chief, whoever that is, and the
5 Safety Director accountable for these problems
6 that the DOJ is going to ask?

7 MAYOR JACKSON: The quick answer
8 to that is yes, but I also want to re-emphasize
9 to you is that their findings in the data and
10 the conclusions they reached with the examples
11 that they used, we don't necessarily agree with
12 all of that.

13 So we will be delving into -- we're
14 already delving into that and we'll be reviewing
15 that to see what in there is accurate, which is
16 not accurate, which is a misstatement, which is
17 -- are examples that may be factual, may not be
18 factual; but your point about yes, the Chief is
19 the Chief, the director is the director, in --
20 in regards to that.

21 Now but it implies from the report and
22 from your question as if there was nothing done
23 and now -- and that is where we have a -- a
24 disagreement. As a matter of fact, when you
25 look at the use of force over a period of time,

1 you will see that the use of force has decreased
2 in -- in those various areas where there is
3 deadly or less deadly -- less lethal force.

4 And you will see that there's been
5 accountability in regards to that, but there
6 have also been -- and that's why I think the
7 Department of Justice's findings don't go far
8 enough in terms of looking at those entities
9 external to the Division of Police.

10 So that when we do discipline people
11 and when we do attempt to hold people
12 accountable, that they go to an arbitrator. The
13 arbitrator overturns it. We send stuff to -- to
14 be -- have criminal prosecution. That doesn't
15 necessarily happen. And so we -- we just
16 believe that if we're going to really look at
17 the systemic part of this, that it really does
18 need to be correct. Then that -- that it should
19 include not just the Division of Police, but
20 more than the Division of Police.

21 So the -- again, I recognize what they
22 have said and you're right, they were kind of
23 aggressive on that. We are looking into that,
24 so that we can provide you and others with what
25 we believe is a more accurate data and if, in

1 fact, that is so, then you will find that action
2 will be taken in that regard.

3 REPORTER 1: Allow me one
4 follow-up, sir.

5 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

6 REPORTER 1: So are you saying
7 that you have full and complete confidence in
8 the Chief and the Safety Director and the job
9 that they have done? You see no problems in
10 what your chiefs and your safety directors have
11 done over the last three to four years?

12 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I -- I didn't
13 say that. I didn't say that. What I said is
14 that it would imply is that your question and
15 report implies that they did nothing and that's
16 inaccurate. And -- and so as we -- and there's
17 always a conversation. I meet with the Chief of
18 police and the Safety Director every week.

19 And we go over what's happening out in
20 the neighborhoods, what's happening in the
21 districts, what are the relevant issues that are
22 facing them? We talk about the issue of -- of
23 accountability. We talked about the whole issue
24 of discipline and -- and -- and how we should be
25 doing those kind of things to process and we --

1 we talked about that.

2 But -- but so I have confidence in them
3 in terms of their attempt to do what needed to
4 be done to correct behavior that was incorrect.
5 The report and your question implies is that
6 they did nothing and they just accepted anything
7 that was done wrong and that's not accurate.
8 Yes?

9 REPORTER 2: Yes, Mayor. This
10 talks about investigators sort of being
11 interviewed.

12 MAYOR JACKSON: That is correct.

13 REPORTER 2: And some
14 investigators actually admitted that the goal
15 was to clear the behavior of the officers; does
16 that trouble you?

17 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, it troubles
18 me if that's accurate. One of the things that
19 we're doing is we reviewed the report and we're
20 delving into it is actually having conversations
21 with those officers who would have made
22 statements like that. That is completely
23 unacceptable, particularly if your duty and
24 responsibility as -- as -- as the investigator
25 of -- of incidents is to ferret out the truth.

1 It is not to move towards a cover-up or
2 move towards creating a set of facts or
3 conditions that would relieve the responsibility
4 or accountability. That's not what they're
5 supposed to do. So yes, we would have trouble
6 with that, but so what we're looking into it and
7 -- and -- and once we look into it, if, in fact,
8 that pans out to be true, then -- then we will
9 do whatever is appropriate.

10 But we're just not accepting it,
11 because the DOJ said it. We -- we have to
12 actually look into this and -- and -- and review
13 it for ourselves. Tom?

14 REPORTER 3: A large part of
15 the report says that the confidence and trust
16 between the community and the police department
17 are essential to resolve these problems.

18 MAYOR JACKSON: That's right.

19 REPORTER 3: A large part of
20 the community expresses a lack of confidence in
21 -- in -- in two of the voices that you've
22 listened to and have had that oversight to the
23 department when these problems were identified.

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

25 REPORTER 3: If the community

1 does not have confidence in them, doesn't that
2 make that an impediment to getting change made?
3 Can old leaders direct new change?

4 MAYOR JACKSON: You know, the
5 first part of your question, I hope so, because
6 I'm getting old. But that being said, it
7 implies that there's no one who has confidence
8 in the Chief or the former Chief.

9 REPORTER 3: No, I didn't say
10 no one, but a segment of the community.

11 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, a segment.
12 Well, a segment of the community doesn't have
13 confidence in your reporting. Does that mean
14 that, you know, you change your leadership or
15 that -- or that you terminate your reporters
16 that they don't have confidence in? You know,
17 the point is that's a segment and -- and -- and
18 when we looked at those people who have
19 communicated with us, e-mails and otherwise,
20 there's also a segment that has complete
21 confidence and complete trust.

22 And -- and they've demonstrated that as
23 early as this morning with -- with phone calls
24 and things. So this is an ongoing process. And
25 I will say to you that at the end of this my

1 goal and my -- my whole purpose is to have a
2 better police division. That is why I welcome
3 this so much. Believe me. I do not have a
4 problem with the DOJ. I just want to make sure
5 that what they're talking about is accurate.

6 And -- and -- and so at the end of
7 this, we will have an opportunity to really have
8 a motto as to how you do policing and have the
9 accountability and -- and the community kind of
10 policing that you need in order to have that
11 trust and -- and all of that stuff, at the end
12 of it. That is why I'm welcoming and agreed in
13 the letter of principle that we should have a
14 monitor.

15 We should not be a -- a -- the Division
16 of Police or the Mayor of the City or the
17 Cleveland City Council or anyone like that who
18 should determine whether or not we should be
19 successful. The consent decree will be very
20 specific, once we agree on what it is, because
21 we're -- we're not agreeing on everything. We
22 agree on the basic principle that there's a need
23 for change. That there are patterns and
24 practices that need to be changed in the
25 Division of Police.

1 And once we agree on the specifics of
2 that, which we will include in the consent
3 decree, we welcome the monitor to ensure the
4 implementation of that, but that's -- that's a
5 process. That's a process and we'll get to that
6 process and we'll get to that end.

7 And I believe it will be a healthy
8 process. And some of the discussion around the
9 issues that have been raised either directly to
10 the Department of Justice report or -- or
11 collateral to it are a part of that discussion.
12 The demonstrations are a part of that
13 discussion. The community input is a part of
14 that discussion.

15 And so we -- I don't have a problem
16 with any of that, none whatsoever. She was
17 next.

18 REPORTER 4: Two -- two parts
19 here.

20 MAYOR JACKSON: Go ahead.

21 REPORTER 4: First, what
22 specifically do you disagree with and secondly,
23 the DOJ has said that -- said that their
24 police's record keeping is invisible.

25 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

1 REPORTER 4: How will the City
2 go about checking out all of the DOJ's
3 conclusions if the records are -- are just not
4 there?

5 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, we have a
6 couple things. I'm not going to tell you what
7 we disagree with, because that becomes part of
8 our process as we look into what they have said
9 and what they recommend. And it also becomes
10 part of our process as we work together and
11 negotiate on what the consent decree is and I
12 don't want to do that in a public kind of way.

13 That does not mean that at some time I
14 will not say to you and whoever else wants to
15 listen the findings that we had based on some of
16 the things that they said. You know so that in
17 that, you can interpret what we agree and
18 disagree on, but the second part of your
19 question was?

20 REPORTER 4: About
21 record keeping.

22 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, the
23 record keeping, now that -- I believe that to be
24 accurate in terms of if it is, then that is a
25 problem in terms of pulling it, because one of

1 the things about poor record keeping is that it
2 -- it does -- let me back up a little bit. I
3 view the DOJ's procedure here as an audit and --
4 and what the audit does, it looks at your -- not
5 only are you having a pattern and practice of a
6 constitutional violation, it looks at your -- is
7 auditing your -- your -- your systems internally
8 to see if, in fact, there needs to be some
9 improvement to get to your point of -- of being
10 able to identify accurately information that you
11 need.

12 And so if, in fact, that is the case
13 and -- and I think it's an accurate assumption,
14 that we need to correct that.

15 REPORTER 4: How though with
16 -- with poor -- if it is -- if the
17 record keeping is --

18 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

19 REPORTER 4: -- lacking --

20 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

21 REPORTER 4: -- how will the
22 City investigate each of the points the DOJ is
23 making to determine which side --

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, because
25 there are points that need data and then there

1 are points that are not necessarily data-driven.
2 And -- and so we will have to ferret all that
3 out. And then we also will say, and I -- I can
4 say that we have provided data that was not
5 reflected in their conclusion.

6 And -- and so in their conclusion, they
7 referenced the inability to get sufficient or
8 accurate information and -- and I would suspect
9 that that may have been the case in some cases,
10 but not in all cases. Let me go here and then
11 I'll come back. Yes, sir?

12 REPORTER 5: Now Mr. Mayor,
13 you -- you and other mayors around the country
14 and even the president have faced some difficult
15 decisions recently --

16 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

17 REPORTER 5: -- in how to
18 manage these situations that potentially expose
19 the community for a number of different reasons.

20 Talk to us a little bit about what you
21 weighed and how you balanced the competing
22 interest of supporting your police while also
23 being responsive to the community and their
24 credibility in identifying if there's really a
25 problem.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, Tom, I just
2 try to do the right thing. And wherever that
3 leaves me, that's where I go. And -- and -- and
4 in doing the right thing, because I don't think
5 I'm right. I want to be right. If I thought I
6 was right, then there's nothing you can tell me,
7 but if I want to be right, then I will take some
8 suggestions. I will listen, but what I will not
9 listen to are those with agendas or those -- or
10 who views this tragedy or other tragedies to
11 promote agendas that are not associated with the
12 purity that I think the demonstrators have in
13 this regard.

14 So I just try to do the right thing.
15 So sometimes that puts me at odds with the
16 policemen, sometimes it puts me at odds with the
17 community, sometimes it puts me at odds with
18 City Council, sometimes it puts me at odds
19 internally within my -- my own directors and --
20 and -- and commissioners. It -- it just puts me
21 at odds.

22 But I really do try to stay focused on
23 -- on what the truth of the matter is and doing
24 the right thing. That's why I'm talking --
25 having this process today, because, you know, a

1 lot of people want to say what the mayor said or
2 -- or imply what the mayor meant by that and I
3 -- I don't think I'm that difficult to
4 understand. So -- and so -- and so -- and I
5 always tell people if you didn't hear it come
6 out of my mouth, I didn't say it.

7 And so that's why I'm trying to be
8 clear with people today that we believe we have
9 a problem within the Division of Police. We
10 don't think it's a systemic failure, but we do
11 believe we have a problem. We will ferret out
12 from the DOJ's report in our internal review of
13 their report as to what we believe are
14 legitimate concerns.

15 And then we will reach a consent decree
16 with the Department of Justice and are perfectly
17 willing to have a monitor to ensure
18 implementation of that, because I want to see
19 the change. I want to see the reform. I do not
20 want children to die at the hand of police
21 officers. I do not want adults to die at the
22 hand of police officers.

23 And -- and -- and if we need to correct
24 behavior or correct policy or correct whatever
25 or do things in addition to what we're doing to

1 better ensure that, then I -- then that's what
2 we'll do, but at the same time, I don't want a
3 policeman not to be able to go home, because he
4 was killed on the street, because he didn't --
5 he didn't do something that he should have done,
6 whether it's a tactical thing or he did --
7 didn't do something or -- or -- or was
8 hesitating, because he didn't know if he was
9 going to be sued or -- or fired because -- so he
10 hesitates.

11 So I don't want that either. You know,
12 police officers are -- are -- are here and
13 that's who we call. And the only thing we ask
14 them when they come out is to be professional in
15 what they do, to abide by -- and have the
16 sensitivity of the situation that they're
17 dealing with at that moment and to handle it in
18 -- in a professional way.

19 So I -- so those are the competing
20 interests. So I just try to do the right thing
21 in regards to it and just let it fall where it
22 may.

23 REPORTER 5: But in your
24 reference to you're going to take some
25 additional action as you negotiate --

1 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

2 REPORTER 5: -- with the
3 Justice Department. Sir, that's a process
4 that's going to take a while now.

5 MAYOR JACKSON: That's correct.

6 REPORTER 5: Do you expect --
7 do you anticipate changing anything about use of
8 force tactics for this?

9 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes, yes, yes.
10 We -- we -- we are already -- we have done some
11 things leading up to the Department of Justice
12 finding and we intend to continue to do things
13 and as we talk to the Department of Justice, as
14 they then are focused in telling us things and
15 we see through our own internal kind of a look
16 at this that that is right and we intend to make
17 those changes before we reached -- reached a
18 final consent decree. We -- we intend to do
19 that, yes. Yes, sir?

20 REPORTER 6: Thank you, Mayor.
21 You and the Chief have repeatedly said last week
22 during the press conference and you just said it
23 again that there were things in the report that
24 you accept or agree that there's a problem.

25 MAYOR JACKSON: We agree as a

1 general principle that we have a problem.

2 REPORTER 6: So there are --
3 so specifically what is a couple examples of
4 things that you see as a problem? Because
5 truly, in a report that large, there are things
6 on face value that should be accepted or
7 rejected and some of the things, you know,
8 reiterate issues that have been raised years
9 earlier; specifically about paperwork,
10 statements of officers and excessive force that
11 are not -- the complaints and the statements --
12 questions have been raised about their accuracy.
13 So what in that report is -- that you accept
14 right now is a problem?

15 MAYOR JACKSON: And what I'm
16 saying to you rather than just be helter-skelter
17 about this, we're going to do a complete review
18 and when we complete that review, you will be --
19 you will be privy to it just like the rest of
20 the world, but I'm not going to sit here now and
21 just pick out one thing and say is wrong and one
22 thing and say it's right or one -- or draw a
23 conclusion or -- or say that that conclusion is
24 wrong or draw another conclusion and say it's
25 right.

1 I'm not going to do that, but I -- but
2 my commitment to you and to everyone else and to
3 the community, in particular, you just happen to
4 be the vehicle to the community, is that we
5 looking at that report. We are dealing with
6 that report in very specific ways about specific
7 things and those things that have been
8 demonstrated once we complete that, that we need
9 to correct, we will be proceeding in that
10 immediately.

11 There may be some things in there that
12 we want to correct that maybe we may be hindered
13 by a -- a collective bargaining, we may be
14 hindered by -- by other external rules. We
15 don't know. Then there are things that are in
16 that report that really falls back on us that
17 are -- that we then have to look at some
18 external changing of things too in order to make
19 what we do more effective, but yes, I will -- we
20 will do that, but I -- I just can't answer the
21 specifics right now.

22 REPORTER 6: One related
23 follow-up?

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

25 REPORTER 6: Yes, can you shed

1 any light on the fact that obviously you guys
2 talked to the Department of Justice about that
3 release, and I don't know whether they gave you
4 a hard copy or not, if you got briefed on --

5 MAYOR JACKSON: A day before.

6 REPORTER 6: So you never had
7 any insight at all.

8 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, yeah, yeah.
9 We had -- we had --

10 REPORTER 6: Which I'm
11 getting at is: Did you challenge any of their
12 initial findings that were verbally given to you
13 guys months ago?

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, yes, yes. We
15 -- we -- we pointed out that we would have
16 disagreements, yes. And that's why even with
17 Mr. Dettelbach, he said that he knew we were not
18 going to agree on everything. Some of the
19 specifics may be off in our -- you know, in our
20 opinion, some of the findings may not be as --
21 as -- as they wrote it in their findings.

22 So yeah, we -- we -- we said to them,
23 that, you know, "These things that you're
24 mentioning here, these examples may not be
25 accurate or correct, but as we go on and you

1 release your findings, we will work with you and
2 we will -- we will then communicate to you what
3 our side of this is. If -- you know, this --
4 regardless of what people may think, this is --
5 this is a -- this is a legal court kind of
6 proceeding going on here. And so you have
7 different sides to this.

8 REPORTER 6: But if you -- if
9 you resist, you could go to court and then that
10 testimony would be there where you guys could
11 fight it out in court.

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Mark, the truth
13 is the truth. And -- and -- and if we can reach
14 a consent decree before that, then there's no --
15 there's no necessity to go in court and we'll
16 accept a monitor on that. If, in fact, we
17 can't, then -- then -- then it will be out to
18 everybody to make a decision as to which side is
19 correct.

20 Ultimately, the Court will make that
21 decision, but I just want everyone to understand
22 that these are -- and I don't want to use the
23 word "allegations," but these -- this is the
24 position of the Department of Justice. They
25 have served us, in a sense, with their findings

1 and now we are responding to that finding and --
2 and as to what the process is when you go
3 through any kind of legal proceeding. And --
4 and the goal is to get to both the Department of
5 Justice, now this is I do believe, that at the
6 end of the day the Department of Justice and the
7 City of Cleveland have the same purpose in mind.

8 That is to come up with a motto of how
9 to do policing that ensures a constitutional
10 right, but at the same time does not put police
11 officers in jeopardy. And -- and to build that
12 trust with the community. We have that. We
13 just have a difference maybe on the road to that
14 -- to that destination and that is the process
15 that we're going to go through.

16 We are in contact with them, as you
17 mentioned. We talked to them before the
18 finding. We're in contact with them now. We'll
19 be meeting next week with them, you know, our
20 lawyers, their lawyers. So we're -- we're in
21 the process and it's -- it's moving towards that
22 conclusion. Yes, sir?

23 REPORTER 7: You had mentioned
24 that one of your problems with the DOJ report is
25 that it didn't take into account these external

1 factors. Talk about some of these external
2 factors that you say are part of the complaint.

3 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, it's --
4 I've been very public, so it's not like I'm
5 doing something new here. And I've been public
6 about it even before the DOJ's report, so but I
7 will recite some. There is -- there is probably
8 a pattern of practice in our entire criminal
9 justice system in the process of it.

10 You know, who gets arrested, who gets
11 charged and charged with what? You know, once
12 they are charged, who gets indicted and who
13 doesn't get indicted? And then if you are
14 indicted and you're convicted, who gets this
15 amount of time and who gets that amount of time?

16 And then when you put a -- a layer of
17 police on there, that disparity sometimes gets
18 even greater, because if you're talking citizen
19 to citizen, that's one thing. This citizen
20 disparity in terms of what happened to this
21 citizen and that citizen, that's one thing, but
22 when you put the police in there, the police are
23 treated differently in the criminal justice
24 system.

25 And -- and -- and when you do that and

1 -- I'll give you a perfect example. We -- we've
2 -- we've terminated police officers not just
3 involving a -- a use of force or use of deadly
4 force. We've suspended police officers without
5 pay. We've done many kinds of disciplinary
6 actions against police officers. And they
7 invariably are taken to the -- to the
8 arbitrator.

9 And invariably, the arbitrator will
10 say, "Well, City, you were right, but maybe you
11 were too harsh, so bring them back. Bring them
12 back. If you demote them, give them their rank
13 back and give them back pay. If you fire them,
14 bring them back to work if you've given them too
15 many days" in the arbitrator's mind.

16 So if you -- if you -- so then, that's
17 an issue when it comes to how do you discipline
18 employees and hold employees accountable when
19 you're going to be measured as to whether or not
20 you took appropriate action. Even if you do
21 take appropriate action, that may be overturned.
22 But let's say, for instance, on a use of force
23 and you -- you sent it to -- and that's on the
24 administrative side, but let's say it's a use of
25 force and you send it to a prosecutor or to the

1 Grand Jury, there's not that many police
2 officers that get indicted.

3 And when they do get indicted, you'll
4 find except for very egregious situations, that
5 a jury will tend to give them the benefit of the
6 doubt. And this has even occurred when -- when
7 there is an indictment, someone goes to trial or
8 if it is not a felony, it might be a
9 misdemeanor. So there are -- there are systemic
10 issues and patterns of practice within the
11 entire criminal justice system.

12 REPORTER 7: So sir, are you
13 saying if a jury's going to give a police
14 officer the benefit of the doubt, then that
15 means you should give them the benefit of the
16 doubt?

17 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I'm not
18 saying that.

19 REPORTER 7: I'm not quite
20 sure I'm following you.

21 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I'm -- I'm
22 answering your question and if you -- if you
23 remember your question, I'm following it. Your
24 question is for me to give you examples of what
25 I mean by external. And that's what I'm doing.

1 I'm giving you examples as to where there's
2 disparity in the criminal justice system is not
3 just associated with police.

4 Police sometimes become the easy one,
5 because it's obvious. They're there. You know,
6 and -- and so they become -- it's easy, but when
7 you get beyond the internal discipline in an
8 administrative way or -- or you get into the
9 criminal justice system, there is disparity when
10 it comes to how a police officer is treated and
11 the average citizen and there is disparity in
12 how an average citizen is treated compared to
13 another average citizen.

14 It is just -- that is way the system is
15 currently functioning. So for me in order for
16 us to have a type of police force we are
17 desiring to have and to have the level of
18 accountability, then there needs to be some --
19 some correction external of things that will
20 make it very clear that if you do certain things
21 and you're held accountable in an administrative
22 or in a -- or if we decide to charge somebody,
23 that the external system will also follow suit
24 in regards to that.

25 Not to say that -- that they must agree

1 with us, but to say that -- that there should
2 not be a level of disparity in the way in which
3 they approach justice or administrative action.
4 Let's go here and then I'll come back. Did you
5 -- I'll get you.

6 REPORTER 8: Sir, there's some
7 talk of improvements that have already been
8 implemented and some that are already in the
9 works. So what can you say specifically, you
10 talked about the specific measures, to assure to
11 the public that improvement is already underway?

12 MAYOR JACKSON: That would be a
13 much better question for the Chief and the
14 director to be honest with you, because they --
15 they're doing it on an everyday basis, but I can
16 give you like the categories that we're looking
17 at.

18 One of the things that Layla mentioned
19 was our record keeping. So we're actually
20 looking into record keeping and -- and to see
21 before -- to see if, in fact, there's some
22 issues around record keeping. So we're -- we
23 have haven't concluded that, but if we find that
24 there is something around record keeping that is
25 inappropriate or not adequate, we will make

1 those changes.

2 We have over some time, there's an
3 issue around training, use of improper tactics,
4 those kind of things and -- and we have issued
5 General Police Orders, not we, but the division
6 of -- issued General Police Orders around how to
7 use proper tactics letting people know that even
8 if you're justified in using this force, whether
9 lethal or not, but you use inappropriate tactics
10 and you put yourself in a situation where you
11 were forced to use force where you would not
12 have if you -- if you had to use proper tactics,
13 that they will be disciplined on -- on
14 administrative leave on that kind of stuff.

15 So it's those kind of things that --
16 that I believe that's one of the things that the
17 DOJ raised about proper tactics and -- and not
18 being -- and putting yourself in a position of
19 having to use force. If you had to use proper
20 tactics, you would not have had to do that.
21 Well, we agree with that and -- and we have made
22 changes in that regard.

23 We're also looking at and have made
24 some changes saying that if you're on the scene
25 of something and there's been a use of force and

1 you, as an officer or whether your supervisor or
2 not believed that that force was inappropriate,
3 you need to take actions to stop that. And if
4 your failure to do what you believe is the right
5 thing and an appropriate thing, then you will be
6 subject to discipline just like the person who
7 actually did the -- the use of force.

8 So it's those -- those kind of things.
9 So we're -- you know, the question becomes as
10 was pointed out how do you get from a General
11 Police Order or a policy and you give that down
12 to the rank and file and that becomes -- that's
13 the process that I think one of the things the
14 DOJ is talking about.

15 REPORTER 8: One thing I found
16 interesting about Dettelbach's comments during
17 the press conference was that he said that
18 police are sometimes escalating situations, not
19 de-escalating them. Is there a discussion
20 about --

21 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

22 REPORTER 8: -- training to
23 address that?

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, a lot of
25 that has to do with sensitivity and -- and --

1 and how you are -- how are you able to recognize
2 the situation in a way that you're sensitive to
3 that situation? And -- and that is some people
4 -- individuals are better at that than others.
5 Some will need some -- just some training.
6 Other people will need training, training,
7 training, training in regards to that. So -- so
8 yes, we're looking at that. A lot of it is
9 around sensitivity.

10 The other side to that is it's
11 difficult for me to judge in every case where
12 that happens, because the police officer may be
13 responding to an escalation of something by the
14 person that they're confronting. And so the
15 question then becomes whether or not it's --
16 it's appropriate for you to then escalate your
17 response, because they have.

18 That goes to the whole training issue
19 of particularly around people who -- who may
20 have some mental illness and things and to
21 recognize that and then how do we quickly engage
22 either someone else who is better able and
23 equipped to deal with that individual or how do
24 we train our -- our officers in a way that they
25 have a better appreciation as to how to behave

1 in that -- in that situation?

2 And we found when we do that, officers
3 are very receptive to that, because they want to
4 -- they want to know how should they deal with
5 this, because they don't want to also get into
6 some physical confrontation. They would rather
7 talk their way out of it or engage their way out
8 of it rather than having to use force. So those
9 are kind of the things that we're looking at.
10 Yes, sir.

11 REPORTER 9: Mayor, thanks.
12 You were talking a lot in this issue here of
13 discussion about the officers on the streets.

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

15 REPORTER 9: And you were
16 using some examples, but is this report in your
17 interpretation more about leadership or more
18 about the officers on the streets? And if it's
19 about the leadership, where would you make
20 changes?

21 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, it's about
22 -- it's about three things. It's about I think
23 they mention specifically about supervision and
24 -- and whether or not supervisors are taking
25 charge. They're talking about the individual

1 officer and whether or not they're behaving
2 appropriately. And then there is this third
3 part that I think is the most essential part in
4 -- in regards is how do you review that and how
5 do you -- how do you after -- whatever happens
6 happens, how do you then review that and -- and
7 have a level of accountability and things like
8 that. Those, I think, are the three areas.

9 So yeah, the report was very clear that
10 they have a concern about supervision, and very
11 clear about they have a concern about officers'
12 immediate reactions to things that may be
13 inappropriate and I think they pointed out this
14 third side too. And that is how do you -- how
15 do you ensure that -- even if you do have good
16 policies and good General Police Orders, how do
17 you ensure that there's a level of
18 accountability so people know that if you cross
19 this line, then -- then you will be held
20 accountable for it?

21 Again, that's where I go about why that
22 is not just -- that -- that rests primarily with
23 the Division of Police. Primarily, it rests
24 with the Division of Police, but there's also
25 that external factor that will validate that's

1 holding people accountable that is very
2 important, because if -- if people believe that,
3 "Okay. You did what you could do, but at the
4 end of the day, I'm not going to be held
5 accountable," they -- they tend not to be as on
6 their -- on their game or disciplined about it.
7 Let me get first you, sir.

8 REPORTER 10: All right.

9 Mayor, you grew up in such a neighborhood --

10 MAYOR JACKSON: Yeah.

11 REPORTER 10: -- in the 1960's.

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

13 REPORTER 10: It's a pretty
14 volatile time.

15 MAYOR JACKSON: Volatile time all
16 the time. Volatile now sometime.

17 REPORTER 10: You have a
18 relationship growing up in it. You didn't grow
19 up in Pepper Pike. You can agree with that.
20 The relationship that the neighborhood had with
21 the Cleveland police officers then, do you think
22 it's any better especially now in the City that
23 is -- is more than 50 percent minority?

24 MAYOR JACKSON: I know this
25 sounds like I'm not answering, but I am. It's a

1 yes or no situation. I'll tell you why. It is
2 yes, that it's better, because I've actually
3 seen police officers diffuse things. I've seen
4 them confront young people in a way where they
5 maybe could have arrested them, but they did
6 what they would do perhaps in a more affluent
7 environment, affluent community where they'd
8 actually take them home and they -- you know,
9 and they'd talk to them. They engage with them,
10 so I've seen that. I've seen that.

11 And I've seen more of that over the
12 last, you know, ten years or so than -- than
13 I've seen when I was a kid, but -- but so yes,
14 I've seen them.

15 No, because I actually still see some
16 that are just pretty -- pretty straightforward
17 about how they approach communities in
18 situations. It's either, "You do what I say or
19 you're going to jail" and I think that -- that
20 kind of brings a sense of -- of a -- of a person
21 believing that they're not being respected.
22 Then that begins to escalate. Okay. Now so
23 I've seen both.

24 I will tell you that -- you know, as
25 you say, I stayed in the Central area. I still

1 stay in the Central area, on 38th and Central
2 and -- and I have an 18-year-old grandson that
3 has been on his face on the ground and police
4 over him, not that he did anything, not that he
5 did anything, but it's just the area you're
6 living in and things are going on and the police
7 come and they try to control the situation. So
8 he's face down in the -- on the ground in the
9 mud while they check everything out, "It's okay.
10 You can go."

11 I have a granddaughter that when she
12 was -- and I know you probably remember, who was
13 arrested by police for something that she should
14 not have been arrested for and as a result of
15 that, she went to trial and was found not guilty
16 by a jury and -- and -- and -- and exonerated
17 from it, but she spent a night in jail in which
18 -- which she did not like then and as she
19 remembers now.

20 But I also have a 12-year-old
21 greatgrandson who was caught out after curfew
22 and lectured by the police and brought home --
23 and so that I could chastise him. And -- and he
24 didn't know who -- who he was when he stopped
25 him, but he could have, you know, got real

1 aggressive with him, but he didn't do it, you
2 know.

3 So -- so my point is -- is -- is
4 there's a variety of experience. Now let -- let
5 me point out --

6 REPORTER 10: What is -- I'm
7 sorry, Mayor. What do you believe is the
8 overall level of trust between the residents
9 that you swore an oath to -- to be their leader
10 and the officers who swore an oath to -- to
11 protect, do you think as you sit here today,
12 there's a good relationship between your
13 community and your police department?

14 MAYOR JACKSON: And -- and when
15 you say "my community," I'm assuming you mean an
16 African-American community.

17 REPORTER 10: No, I mean --

18 MAYOR JACKSON: So you need to
19 distinguish please for me.

20 REPORTER 10: Now you're making
21 an assumption. I'm talking about --

22 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, you said
23 "my community." My community where I live or --

24 REPORTER 10: Your community
25 where you're the mayor of the community.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: When you said "my
2 community," where I live or the City of
3 Cleveland?

4 REPORTER 10: The community
5 overall.

6 MAYOR JACKSON: And I would say
7 as -- I would say as a general rule, yes, there
8 is trust. I will say in terms of specific -- at
9 specific times that I think, no, but as a
10 general, I would say yes. And -- and I say
11 that, I say that because again, when I -- you
12 know, from the phone calls we get and all these
13 other kinds of things and -- and when I go out
14 into my neighborhoods and I talk to people,
15 people welcome the police.

16 We have pretty -- let me back up a
17 little. Give me a little time on this one, but
18 the quick answer is yes, I believe, there is
19 trust, but it doesn't always happen throughout
20 the City of Cleveland in every part of the City
21 of Cleveland. And in some parts of the City of
22 Cleveland, there's a high level of mistrust.
23 But let me point out something to you, that even
24 in those areas where you would think there's not
25 a trust of police, I've yet to have that

1 community or that neighborhood tell me, "Don't
2 have police come here."

3 We have -- we live -- we're in an urban
4 environment. We're not in a suburban or a rural
5 environment. We have urban challenges that are
6 associated with the high availability of guns in
7 the hands of younger and younger people, in the
8 hands of people who shouldn't have it, there is
9 drug activity, there is all kinds of things
10 going in an urban environment.

11 And that type of policeman and that
12 type of policing is very aggressive and we have
13 initiatives around that, whether it's V-GRIP,
14 our gun suppression initiative, we work with the
15 highway patrol and the county sheriff when we go
16 into an area and saturate that area with police
17 officers, both the county, DEA, FBI come and get
18 me to a point.

19 And when we do that, I've yet to hear a
20 community, even in an area of the community
21 where you would say that there is a less of a
22 trust than other areas, I've yet to have that
23 neighborhood, that community, tell us not to
24 have them police be there. I've had them say to
25 us, "When are you coming back? And thank you

1 for being here." So -- so -- so the thing
2 around trust is it -- it goes -- you know, it's
3 a broader kind of issue. And as a general rule,
4 there is trust in the police.

5 In some areas there is less trust of
6 the police and -- and in some areas there's a
7 mistrust of police, but even in those areas
8 where there's less trust and mistrust, I've yet
9 to have that community tell me not to have the
10 police come there. As a matter of fact, I have
11 other communities say, "When are you coming
12 here?"

13 REPORTER 10: Mr. Mayor, you
14 said --

15 MAYOR JACKSON: No, before you
16 say anything, no, he didn't ask. Let me -- he
17 can ask me his question.

18 REPORTER 11: Thank you, Mr.
19 Mayor. Other communities that have been
20 involved with the DOJ concerns previously, a
21 couple things that they have generally in common
22 was there's been some change in leadership
23 somewhere. You know, some new blood somewhere
24 higher up in command. They had citizen
25 complaints to authorities that had an outside

1 transparent investigation of the police
2 shootings. And they had the consent decree
3 which I thought I heard you say may or may not
4 happen and you can address if I heard it wrong?

5 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I didn't -- I
6 didn't say that. I'm saying my -- my -- we are
7 working towards one happening. What the
8 question was that "If it didn't happen, are you
9 going to court?" And I said, "Well, that's
10 right." But our goal is to have one.

11 REPORTER 11: Do you support an
12 independent, outside investigating body for the
13 police shootings?

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, yeah. I can
15 answer that right off the top. As a matter of
16 fact, not only do we support it, I have -- I
17 have attempted on several occasions to see if we
18 could have that happen. And I'm not saying
19 anything new here. We originally thought that
20 what is that state department, Bureau of
21 Criminal Investigations?

22 REPORTER 11: BCI.

23 MAYOR JACKSON: BCI, I had
24 originally hoped that they would pan out to be
25 the investigators of it. However, I lost

1 confidence in how they handled the East
2 Cleveland shooting. So we're looking at -- and
3 I -- I've actually talked to the FBI about
4 whether or not they would be willing and their
5 issue is they don't have jurisdiction. Unless
6 it raises to a certain level, then they come in
7 and they take over.

8 Even on this particular case that we're
9 looking at with the 12-year-old, we were having
10 conversation with -- if I -- let me finish, with
11 the County Prosecutor who -- who is -- who is
12 intensely reviewing our process. And he himself
13 can not do that. It would have to be the county
14 sheriff that would do that. So I'm in complete
15 support. As a matter of fact, I -- I believe
16 that the best way to do it is to have external
17 eyes look at anything in regards to use of force
18 by police. I think that is the right way to go.
19 Yes?

20 REPORTER 12: And -- and you've
21 already answered that you have faith in -- in
22 your command, so I'm assuming you're --

23 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

24 REPORTER 12: -- not making
25 changes in the Division of Police command, but

1 do you worry how that is perceived, and I'm not
2 criticizing anyone in your command --

3 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

4 REPORTER 12: -- but after the
5 East Cleveland shooting, three of your top
6 people got promoted; okay? So what I'm worried
7 about is the perception that some people say
8 there is a problem with the people that tended
9 to have received promotions.

10 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, there are
11 -- to some, that is a -- a problem and they're
12 very boisterous about that. For most people I
13 talked to it's not a problem and they're not as
14 boisterous about it. Now do I have confidence
15 in the individuals? Yes, I do. I do. And I
16 will say that much of those changes that have
17 occurred is through their effort and through
18 their tenacity of -- of pushing those things
19 from top to bottom. Have they been successful
20 in -- in -- in -- in making the kind of changes
21 that we would like to have? Not completely.
22 No.

23 No, but I don't think any of us when
24 you're dealing with major institutions and
25 organizations even with the best intent, are

1 able to turn that 100 miles an hour freight
2 train around on a hairpin.

3 REPORTER 12: But do you think
4 sometimes, I don't know if it happens, but do
5 you think sometimes new blood, fresh blood --

6 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

7 REPORTER 12: -- or outside
8 blood --

9 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

10 REPORTER 12: -- will get a
11 chance to put --

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes, I believe
13 having new blood and an external review an
14 evaluation, yes, and -- and because all of us
15 get institutionalized, even those who have the
16 best intentions and -- and we wind up being
17 institutionalized. And so it's always good to
18 have fresh and new blood to bring to bear on
19 situations as -- as they present themselves.

20 So -- so and I'm not opposed to that.
21 I actually welcome that, but I do believe that
22 at this time that we have a Department of
23 Justice review that we have to go through. And
24 that at the end of that process, it will make
25 some recommendations, we will agree on a consent

1 decree and we will welcome a monitor, which we
2 believe will be an outside kind of thing, and --
3 and we will look at all aspects of what makes it
4 best for us to do implementation.

5 REPORTER 12: When do you think
6 you'll get an agreement, because I'll bet those
7 negotiations are tough?

8 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, you know,
9 I've -- you know, I've -- some of those take
10 years and some of them take months. None of
11 them have taken weeks; right? And so we want to
12 be on the -- on the month's side, not the year's
13 side. And -- and as we go through this, some --
14 we will -- I'm confident in talking to the U.S.
15 Attorney Dettelbach and -- and in talking to
16 even those who people want to get rid of,
17 McGrath, that I'm confident that we will have a
18 consent decree.

19 And I'm confident in that consent
20 decree that it will make some recommendations
21 that -- that we will agree on even if we don't
22 like it. And -- and I think the same on the
23 other side too. He's first and then you. Go
24 ahead.

25 REPORTER 13: Thank you, Mayor.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

2 REPORTER 13: So the first time

3 you read this report --

4 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

5 REPORTER 13: -- was there

6 anything in there that shocked you, surprised

7 you, made your jaw drop, shake your head? I

8 mean you asked for this, but was there anything

9 in there that you said, "I just can't believe

10 this?"

11 MAYOR JACKSON: That goes to --

12 that goes to Mark's question.

13 REPORTER 13: Yeah.

14 MAYOR JACKSON: And the fact that

15 they --

16 REPORTER MARK: We're a double

17 team.

18 REPORTER 13: Right, right.

19 MAYOR JACKSON: The fact that

20 they had -- I don't want to say softened me up,

21 but the fact that they gave us a general notion

22 of what would be there, so when they put it in

23 writing, I wasn't shocked. I wasn't shocked,

24 but not being shocked doesn't mean that I

25 wasn't --

1 REPORTER 13: Surprised?

2 MAYOR JACKSON: No, not

3 surprised. I think they were pretty -- they
4 were pretty clear up front that they were going
5 to find some stuff that we weren't going to be
6 happy with. They were pretty clear up front, so
7 -- so -- so even though I wasn't shocked, you
8 know, I was saying, "Well, you know, this is
9 exactly what they said they were going to do"
10 So in that vein, but I wasn't -- I wasn't
11 shocked by it.

12 Now if your -- if the question is would
13 I be shocked if all of what they said I believed
14 to be true? Yeah, I'd be shocked then because
15 that would mean that, you know, a whole lot of
16 things. It just so happens that there are
17 things that we disagree in there with and we'll
18 go through a process of -- of talking about that
19 with them and reach some agreement with them on
20 those things that we can agree on.

21 And I'm pretty sure there'll be things
22 in there that they're not going -- they're not
23 going to budge from. I'm pretty sure that
24 that's going to happen.

25 REPORTER 13: A second --

1 second question, raised by critics --

2 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

3 REPORTER 13: -- and raised by
4 the grapevines that write editorials.

5 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

6 REPORTER 13: The ultimate
7 responsibility for oversight of the Safety
8 Department, you appoint the chief, you appoint
9 the officers, command staff.

10 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

11 REPORTER 13: How much
12 responsibility do you bear for what's described
13 in the report?

14 MAYOR JACKSON: I -- I bear all
15 responsibility for anything in there that's true
16 or that's factual. I'm the Mayor. And -- and
17 -- you know, I'm not going to blame somebody
18 else for that. You know, it's just like me
19 having my staff meeting and cabinet meeting and
20 I imagine even in your organization meeting,
21 your or whoever is above you have a direct
22 conversation with you how in the heck did you do
23 this or that?

24 You know, we have the same thing.

25 We're a city. We do the same thing here, but

1 at the end of the day, I am the Mayor and -- and
2 -- and ultimately, I bear all the responsibility
3 of anything in there that is -- that is accurate
4 -- and -- and that has not been changed even to
5 the point of those things that we were aware of
6 and agreed to. Agreed that, you know what?
7 You're right about this.

8 And the fact that we did things in
9 order to correct that particular thing and it
10 didn't happen, then -- then ultimately, I'm
11 responsible for that. And -- and -- and I let
12 those know who I relied on to make that happen
13 that didn't that I was not happy about it. Yes,
14 sir?

15 REPORTER 14: Mayor, this picks
16 up on what you were just talking about. All the
17 issues outlined in the police force report --

18 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

19 REPORTER 14: -- how did it get
20 to this point that there's -- you know what,
21 they have to amend without you or somebody in
22 the top safety leadership recognizing there were
23 this many problems?

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, again,
25 assuming the accuracy of it. What I'm saying to

1 you is that we have recognized that we have
2 problems. We have attempted to deal with those.
3 Some -- some things we've been successful. Some
4 things we have not. And as you know, this came
5 about through a series of events that culminated
6 in this report.

7 And -- and so those things that became
8 high profile and those things that became very
9 intense, you know, resulted in this report and
10 them being here, but we were aware of -- of
11 things that we recognized in this report as we
12 go through it that were legitimate and we have
13 taken steps to correct some of that, those
14 things.

15 And -- and there were other things that
16 they're raising in there that we're looking at
17 that may be we didn't see. And so we're going
18 to take steps in correcting those. Once we
19 recognize that that's a legitimate concern, then
20 we should deal with that.

21 UNKNOWN VOICE: Mayor?

22 MAYOR JACKSON: There was -- yes.
23 Did you have something yet?

24 UNKNOWN VOICE: Yes, sir.

25 MAYOR JACKSON: Okay. Go ahead.

1 REPORTER 15: On Monday night,
2 your administrators walked out during a city
3 council meeting --

4 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

5 REPORTER 15: -- in a very
6 dramatic turn of events. There were protesters
7 there. There were all sorts of people calling
8 for resignations of Director Flask and McGrath.
9 Did you know that that was going to happen?
10 When were you -- if not, when were you made
11 aware of it and do you condone that?

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Let me sequence
13 it for you, so I can give you a full answer. I
14 was at the Word Church having a public dialogue
15 with a -- on a panel and -- and I was not aware
16 that it had happened. Subsequently after
17 leaving the community meeting at the Word
18 Church, I found out that it did happen.

19 I didn't call anybody at that
20 particular time, but I did ask some people to
21 come to my office early the next day and I asked
22 them, you know, what happened? You know, why
23 did you do this, because it was pretty
24 spontaneous. No one planned to do it is from my
25 understanding. And -- and so once they

1 articulated to me the reason why they did it,
2 I'm in complete support of it, complete support.

3 It wasn't about the demonstrators to a
4 -- to a person, even with Director McGrath.
5 They actually had no problem with the
6 demonstrators. Even though they were asking for
7 his resignation, he had no problem with it.
8 None of my staff or administrators had any
9 problem with that. We -- I think council, as a
10 whole, we did not have any problem with council,
11 as a whole, in terms of them as a body taking a
12 position, but where they were concerned with and
13 -- and they just felt that they would not
14 tolerate is what they believed to be a
15 disrespect and personal attack on -- on someone
16 in what they believed to be a nonprofessional
17 way.

18 And -- and that they believed and I
19 support that they're not here to be abused. And
20 that if -- if -- if there's a public opinion
21 about something, that's fine. I mean, your
22 editorial board has written the same thing, you
23 know, so that's fine. You know, if
24 demonstrators have said and members of council,
25 they say it, that's -- that's fine. We don't

1 have a problem with that, but we -- we are here
2 to -- as public servants and -- and we're not
3 here to be abused.

4 REPORTER 15: What was the
5 specific?

6 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, I was not
7 there, but if my -- I have a professional
8 cabinet. And they have more years in government
9 than I am alive. And -- and -- and -- and so
10 they have gone through council hearings, they've
11 gone through public hearings, they've gone
12 through all of that. So they -- their skin is
13 pretty thick, pretty thick. And if they felt
14 that way, then I honor their feelings. And if
15 they believed that is the action that they
16 needed to take at that point in time, based on
17 what they communicated to me, then I support
18 their actions.

19 REPORTER 16: So their specific
20 -- their specific beef was with Jeff Johnson's
21 treatment of -- of Mr. McGrath?

22 MAYOR JACKSON: I was -- I was
23 not there.

24 REPORTER 16: Is that what they
25 said to you though; is that how they -- is that

1 how they explained it to you, Mayor?

2 MAYOR JACKSON: I'll get to you.
3 Do you watch -- do you watch this stuff all day
4 or I mean, do you just come in on certain
5 moments when something happens? And the reason
6 I ask that with no disrespect is that this stuff
7 just doesn't happen in isolation. There's
8 context and -- and when you go through a -- a
9 day of -- of -- of hearing I think safety -- was
10 that? how long was safety at your table?

11 UNKNOWN VOICE: Yesterday?

12 MAYOR JACKSON: No, on Monday
13 night.

14 UNKNOWN VOICE: Monday night,
15 about two hours.

16 MAYOR JACKSON: Two hours. And
17 -- and -- and -- and if you look at that two
18 hours and -- and you look at what transpired
19 between two hours and then when you get into,
20 you know, having early in the morning, you get
21 into council committee hearings and what happens
22 and then you -- what happens, then you got to
23 the floor council, and I'll remind you, this was
24 at a miscellaneous when council people were
25 allowed, and rightly so, to make public comments

1 about stuff.

2 So it's not just one thing, you know.
3 It is about what has happened over a course of
4 time that culminated in that. And so that --
5 that is what they responded to. They didn't
6 respond to just one thing. It's -- it's a --
7 it's a combination of things that led to their
8 actions that I supported.

9 REPORTER 17: Mayor, you said
10 you've lost confidence in BCI at the Attorney
11 General's Office.

12 MAYOR JACKSON: Yes.

13 REPORTER 17: Can you explain?

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Again, this is
15 one of the -- one of the problems that I have to
16 be honest with you which is that I will explain
17 it again, let me put it this way, is that if you
18 remember when there was -- before the Attorney
19 General had his press conference on the release
20 of investigation. And I told you all this, he
21 actually called me and said that these officers
22 did nothing wrong. And that if he was the
23 county prosecutor, he wouldn't indict them.

24 Well, right away I said, "Well, is that
25 your role? You're an investigator. You're

1 dealing with the forensics of things. You're
2 dealing with interviewing witnesses. You're
3 recreating the scene, so you can investigate.
4 And then you're going to go turn it over to the
5 county prosecutor who then makes a determination
6 whether there's probable cause to take it to a
7 Grand Jury."

8 So I just thought that his comment and
9 his attitude was premature in regards to that.
10 And then when I looked at the -- I didn't look
11 at it, but our people looked at the videos of --
12 of how they interviewed the officers there and
13 then we looked at the releasing of the
14 information that was unprecedented in criminal
15 proceedings, unprecedented. And -- and the same
16 type of information that he refused to release
17 down there in the Dayton shooting of a police
18 officer of a person at the Walmart, "Well, you
19 released it here. Why didn't you do it -- you
20 know, you don't" so -- so -- so I just don't
21 have the confidence that it's going to be an
22 objective, transparent, due process kind of
23 investigation because of statements made to me
24 directly where they drew conclusions. How can
25 you have that conclusion?

1 And then that's the same reason why
2 whoever it was asked me having an external
3 person investigate whether or not all the police
4 shootings or use of force, whether or not it has
5 more validity if you have somebody external?
6 Well, yes, it does, because you -- you then
7 assume that they're going to be objective about
8 it. You assume that they're going to do it in a
9 professional way. I don't think that happened.
10 And as a result of that, from that point on,
11 things kind of rolled downhill.

12 REPORTER 17: Those who have
13 been calling for the resignations --

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

15 REPORTER 17: -- of the top
16 officials --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: I figured that --
18 figured that would get you fired up, but go
19 ahead.

20 REPORTER 17: -- they -- they
21 believe that ultimately the top officials --

22 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

23 REPORTER 17: -- are
24 responsible for the behavior of the police, the
25 quality of -- of their policies, quality of

1 internal investigations and that the culture of
2 police then trickles down --

3 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

4 REPORTER 17: -- from the top
5 and -- and Director McGrath and -- and --

6 MAYOR JACKSON: Then Chief
7 McGrath.

8 REPORTER 17: -- then Chief
9 McGrath and then Director Flask have been around
10 for decades.

11 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

12 REPORTER 17: They were here
13 when the first DOJ --

14 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

15 REPORTER 17: -- investigation
16 took place and -- but you -- you have suggested
17 especially with the case of the -- of the 137
18 shots --

19 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

20 REPORTER 17: -- that those
21 were all the result of individual police
22 officers' actions. To what extent when you're
23 talking about 100 officers --

24 MAYOR JACKSON: Correct.

25 REPORTER 17: -- who were

1 involved in some way --

2 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

3 REPORTER 17: -- in an event
4 that went off the rails as far as adhering to
5 policies that are in place, at what point does
6 that land directly on -- on the culture of
7 policing and the fact that it trickles down from
8 the top?

9 MAYOR JACKSON: And -- and I
10 think in terms of the culture of policing and --
11 and this whole culture of blue that justifies
12 any action that a policeman takes on another
13 policeman is -- they believe their life is in
14 danger, that -- that culture is there. And --
15 and -- and it's still there. And that's why you
16 have to have clear, definable rules in a box of
17 engagement, so that -- so that that -- so that
18 they know where they're wrong and where they're
19 right. And you measure them by whether or not
20 they stay within that box.

21 Now you had the chance to review the
22 DVD that we put together of all the video we had
23 of -- of that chase. You had the ability to
24 listen to all of the radio communications that
25 occurred. And in that, you would probably have

1 to admit that there were officers and
2 supervisors who did the right thing and followed
3 protocol, followed General Police Orders and
4 policies and procedures.

5 And there were supervisors who forced
6 their people in their districts to stand down
7 and -- and -- and there were officers who obeyed
8 that. There were other supervisors who chose to
9 do nothing or -- or participated in doing stuff
10 that they believed was outside -- they not only
11 believed, but they knew, because they told you
12 they knew what -- that they were violating --
13 they told you they knew that. They told you
14 they knew it and they deliberately did that,
15 those supervisors, allowed for that to persist
16 and some of them participated and we fired them.
17 We demoted them. We disciplined them. The
18 arbitrator said, "You can't do that even though
19 you're right."

20 So my point -- my point is that there
21 was a clear understanding as to what was right
22 and wrong here and it was a clear choice by
23 supervisors which the DOJ points out, clear
24 choices by some supervisors not only to allow
25 something to happen that was outside of what

1 they should do, and some participating in it and
2 -- and under the Code of Blue, under the Code of
3 Blue, that that some kind of way -- that's what
4 the union has told you that that trumped
5 everything else, trumped everything else.

6 And then there were those who did the
7 right thing. They did the right thing. And
8 so in that, yes, you have a police chief, yes,
9 you have a director, but to say that they are
10 the ones that should be terminated when, in
11 fact, when we took action against the
12 individuals, the system said, "You can't do it."

13 And then to say to them that they
14 should be terminated when they were the ones who
15 stood up and said it was wrong and they're the
16 ones who went and did the corrective action.
17 Now if they had done nothing, if they had done
18 nothing or if they would have come to me and
19 said, "Mayor, it's the Code of Blue" or they
20 would have said that, not directly, but
21 indirectly, then they would have been fired, but
22 they didn't do that. They said, "Mayor, this is
23 wrong."

24 They clearly knew what they were doing
25 and they clearly knew that -- that they took

1 actions and those actions were wrong. And --
2 and -- and to show that they clearly knew it,
3 the police officers and the supervisors said
4 they knew it, including the union, but they
5 figured that the Code of Blue overrid it. And
6 this McGrath and Flask said, "That's not so. It
7 does not overrule it so -- override it."

8 So they took action and they took very
9 aggressive action, very aggressive action. Now
10 if they had done nothing or they would have
11 tried to justify to me and said it was the Code
12 of Blue, they would not be here today. Yes,
13 ma'am?

14 REPORTER 18: Can you give us
15 an idea of who is going to be involved on the
16 City of Cleveland's side in the DOJ --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: The DOJ?

18 REPORTER 18: -- negotiations
19 about the consent decree.

20 MAYOR JACKSON: What it will
21 primarily be the lawyers, because, you know,
22 it's a legal proceeding. Now in that, just like
23 what all lawyers do, they bring in whoever they
24 believe are the experts to support their side of
25 things. So I would imagine it will be Public

1 Safety, not necessarily the -- the top but those
2 people involved, particularly if it's talking
3 about -- let's say, for instance, talking about
4 Internal Affairs and the comments they made
5 about Internal Affairs.

6 Then we need to talk to those people in
7 Internal Affairs and find out from them what was
8 attributed to them, was that correct or
9 incorrect and how they attributed it and then
10 from -- so that will be people who will give
11 information, but it will be the attorneys that
12 will be primarily involved.

13 I will not be hands on on this. Of
14 course, at the end of the day, I'll make the
15 final decision in regards to the work product.
16 You know, the results of the work product in
17 the final decree, but I won't be helping out.
18 So it's -- it's primarily lawyers and whoever
19 else they want to bring in. Now at the same
20 time, if we're doing this in a cooperative way,
21 then we will be willing to talk to agreed upon
22 experts that the DOJ and us agree upon in terms
23 of how do we get their input as to how to
24 correct things, you know, once we identify what
25 the problem is. So it will be a range of

1 people dealing with the lawyers.

2 REPORTER 18: You will not be
3 hands on then?

4 MAYOR JACKSON: I will not be
5 hands on, because I always tell people if I'm --
6 sometimes a meeting goes much better without a
7 mayor there. When a mayor is there, it tends to
8 kind of push one way or another. So it's always
9 best for me if I want the best work product to
10 stay, I'll get -- I'll get briefed, but and --
11 and that -- so when -- but for them to then
12 compile something and bring it to me, so I can
13 make a decision.

14 REPORTER 18: And this may be
15 just beating a -- a dead horse --

16 MAYOR JACKSON: I think that --
17 that happens quite often here --

18 REPORTER 18: But yeah.

19 MAYOR JACKSON: So don't worry
20 about it.

21 REPORTER 18: Are asking for or
22 accepting the resignations of Marty Flask and
23 Michael McGrath on the table with this -- with
24 this consent decree?

25 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, that cannot

1 be in the consent decree. I mean, I they -- I
2 think -- I think Mr. Dettelbach was very clear
3 at his testimony before the council that he's
4 not even looking at some stuff like that. He's
5 looking at what he calls to be problems within
6 the division that lead to a pattern of behavior,
7 a pattern and practice that leads to a
8 constitutional violation.

9 REPORTER 18: So it won't be a
10 part of the consent decree?

11 MAYOR JACKSON: No, it's not --
12 it's not a part of that. No, no, it would not
13 be part of the consent decree. There was
14 somebody --

15 REPORTER 19: Mayor, when are
16 you -- when are you starting to go into
17 negotiations? When do those start?

18 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, they --
19 they've already started. They've pretty much
20 have already started. They will -- I believe
21 that I have to talk to the lawyers, but I
22 believe that the structure of how you perceive
23 setting a structure in place that will talk
24 about how do we conduct this and how do we --
25 how do we get to consensus on stuff and what are

1 the time periods?

2 I believe that starts next week, but
3 the discussions are there. It's ongoing. The
4 formal -- formalization of the process, I think,
5 will -- or I know it will start next week, but
6 we're -- we're -- we're -- we're in negotiations
7 already.

8 REPORTER 20: Mayor, a couple
9 things in the report that don't seem to be in
10 dispute. One would be whether the police
11 department has certain computers or equipment or
12 not.

13 MAYOR JACKSON: Right, right,
14 right.

15 REPORTER 20: And if those are
16 things the Justice Department pushes --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

18 REPORTER 20: -- is that
19 something that you would or feel you have to
20 resist, because the City could not afford to,
21 you know, implement those kind of changes?

22 MAYOR JACKSON: You know -- you
23 know --

24 REPORTER 20: I'm talking about
25 the cost.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: I'm not trying to
2 make light of this, but as a perfect example, if
3 we're talking to -- you know, even three
4 branches of government; legislative, judicial,
5 executive branch and -- but we handle all the
6 budget. So if we say to the legislative body or
7 we say to the judicial system, for example, that
8 "Hey, what about your budget?" They say, "There
9 is no -- there is no -- no cost for justice," so
10 that's the way I feel that we want to do the
11 right thing here.

12 Fully recognizing that just the use of
13 technology will not resolve the problem. It
14 will help, because people do behave different,
15 both -- not only police officers now, but those
16 who they confront will also behave different if
17 there's cameras there. But we also know
18 external that if you have video doesn't
19 necessarily mean that the process will work its
20 way out to in a way that people feel that
21 there's justice.

22 So but for an internal situation, I
23 believe that cameras are -- are -- are -- are
24 great tools and is a great technology.
25 Computers are a great technology, because what

1 it allows you to do is pull up information in
2 real time that will allow you -- maybe you
3 behave different or you approach somebody
4 different if you know they have a felony warrant
5 for -- or you think or as opposed to a traffic
6 ticket, if you know that they're a fugitive, so
7 you approach them different.

8 (Video and audio of press conference
9 stops abruptly.)

10 - - -

1 State of Ohio,)
2 County of Lake.) SS:

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Mary Bolas-Dietz, do hereby certify
that I have transcribed the proceedings
of the digital video recording of the
press conference held by Mayor
Frank G. Jackson, at Cleveland City
Hall, on Thursday, December 11, 2014,
and that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript made to the best
of my ability.

Mary Bolas-Dietz
Transcriber

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CONTINUATION OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF CITY
OF CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK G. JACKSON, AUDIO
ONLY PORTION, HELD AT CITY OF CLEVELAND
CITY HALL, 601 LAKESIDE AVENUE, CLEVELAND,
OHIO 44114 ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014.

IN RE:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FINDINGS
REGARDING CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

- - -

1 MAYOR JACKSON: There was somebody --

2 REPORTER: Mayor, when are you
3 starting these negotiations? When are those
4 starting?

5 MAYOR JACKSON: They've already
6 started.

7 REPORTER: Okay.

8 MAYOR JACKSON: They pretty much have
9 already started. They will, I believe that --
10 I have to talk to the lawyers -- but I believe
11 that the structure of how you proceed is
12 setting a structure in place that will talk
13 about how do we conduct this and how do we get
14 to consensus on stuff, what are time periods.
15 I believe that starts next week. But the
16 discussions are there. The formalization of
17 the process, I think, will -- well, I know it
18 will start next week. We're in negotiation
19 already.

20 REPORTER: Mayor, there were a
21 couple things in the report that don't seem to
22 be in dispute. One would be whether the
23 Police Department has certain computers or
24 equipment, or not.

25 MAYOR JACKSON: Right, right, right.

1 REPORTER: And if those are
2 things the Justice Department pushes, is that
3 something that you would or feel you have to
4 resist because the City could not afford to
5 implement those kinds of changes?

6 MAYOR JACKSON: No.

7 REPORTER: I'm talking about the
8 cost.

9 MAYOR JACKSON: You know, I'm not
10 trying to make light of this, but as a perfect
11 example; if we're talking to -- you know,
12 three branches of government, legislative,
13 judicial, executive, right? But we handle all
14 the budget. So if we say to the legislative
15 body or we say to the judicial system, for
16 example, that hey, what about your
17 budget? They said there is no cost for
18 justice. So that's the way I feel, that we
19 want to do the right thing here, fully
20 recognizing that just the use of technology
21 would not resolve the problem. It will help
22 because people do behave different, both, not
23 only police officers now, but those who they
24 confront will also behave different if there's
25 cameras there.

1 But we also know, external, that if you
2 have video doesn't necessary mean that the
3 process will work its way out in a way that
4 people feel that there is justice. So, but
5 for an internal situation, I believe that
6 cameras are great tools, is a great
7 technology. Computers are great technology,
8 because what it allows you to do is pull up
9 information in real-time, that will allow you
10 -- maybe you behave different or you approach
11 somebody different if you know they have a
12 felony warrant, as opposed to a traffic
13 ticket. If you know that they are a fugitive,
14 so you approach them different, rather than
15 everybody gets approached the same way.

16 REPORTER: Why didn't we have
17 them then sooner? I mean, it's a cost thing.

18 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, there's a cost,
19 there's a cost, and that's a driver. But we
20 are putting in technology, we just hadn't
21 intended doing as quickly as the DOJ would
22 mandate under a Consent Decree. But we were
23 moving in that direction.

24 I just approved over almost \$2-3
25 million for body cameras recently. We've had

1 -- what did they call it -- pilot projects,
2 pilot on these, in various districts for over
3 a year now. So we're moving in that
4 direction, it's just when you get to this
5 point, that becomes an immediate expenditure.
6 So we were going to get there, but we probably
7 wouldn't have gotten there as quick as we'll
8 get there now if that becomes part of the
9 Consent Decree. It's similar to what's
10 happening with the RNC, and a lot of
11 Republican National --

12 REPORTER: That's a whole
13 different press conference, but since you
14 bring up, why does Public Square have to be
15 done by the RNC time, that's not part of the
16 proposal? There's a lot of those things --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: No, it's not.

18 REPORTER: -- bridges and things
19 that --

20 MAYOR JACKSON: Of course there is,
21 but see, these things were in effect long
22 before there was a Consent Decree -- I mean,
23 before the DOJ findings. So these are things
24 that are in motion. There's significant
25 non-government money in this. You know, we

1 would like to have, perhaps, some similar
2 arrangements on other obligations we would
3 have under this Consent Decree. But these are
4 things that were in motion. These aren't
5 things that right now we decided to do after
6 we -- that's not the case. That's not the
7 case.

8 Yes?

9 REPORTER: So following up on
10 the point introduced there, have the
11 Republicans expressed any concern at all about
12 the events of the last couple of weeks? Do
13 you expect them to? Are they worried or
14 should they be worried that this overarching
15 story is going to maybe override or blur or be
16 a problem for the convention?

17 MAYOR JACKSON: First of all, they
18 have not expressed concern. As you know, some
19 of the leadership chain is in town now, and I
20 think there was a meeting last night and
21 they'll probably be some ongoing today, and
22 I'll probably be meeting with people today.
23 At no time did they raise that as an issue.

24 REPORTER: But they have to
25 wonder what's going on.

1 MAYOR JACKSON: They may wonder, but
2 your question is whether or not they raised it
3 to me. So, no, they have not raised it to me
4 and they haven't hinted that way. Now, I
5 expect fully, when I meet with them, to raise
6 it myself. You know, so that's not an issue.
7 They have not demonstrated that's an issue
8 with them. They have not raised it yet and
9 they have not insinuated or implied that they
10 have an issue with it. They have not. They
11 have not.

12 Let's go over here first and then we'll
13 come back here.

14 REPORTER: The week of -- well,
15 last week, I guess, earlier in the week before
16 the DOJ came into town, there was -- you had
17 had a press conference about announcing a \$100
18 million bond issue --

19 MAYOR JACKSON: Right, that's right.

20 REPORTER: -- to deal with other
21 things throughout the City, roads and
22 infrastructural things, playgrounds, rec
23 centers. What does that bond issue do to the
24 City's bonding capacity as it relates to the
25 money that you will need to address the

1 inevitable issues within the Cleveland Police?

2 MAYOR JACKSON: What happens is, if
3 you understand the way it happens, because you
4 really borrow money, on the property tax there
5 is, I think, is the unrestricted side, and
6 there's a cap between what's obligated and
7 what's available to do bonding. That's just
8 not with the City of Cleveland, that's County-
9 wide. So what you do is you look at that to
10 see if there's a capacity within that, because
11 if other communities are looking to do a bond
12 that year, they may take up the capacity.

13 So I'm saying that to let you know that
14 there are other tools available to accomplish
15 the same end. There are other tools
16 available.

17 REPORTER: What are some of
18 those?

19 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, you'd have to
20 talk to the Finance Director about that.

21 REPORTER: Later, that's not why
22 we're here.

23 (Voices talking over one another.)

24 MAYOR JACKSON: She's trying to tie
25 it back to if there's technology. That's what

1 they're trying to tie it back to.

2 But so you'd have to ask Finance
3 Director, but there are other tools to
4 accommodate that. But since you raised it,
5 I'm pretty sure the next spring you'll be
6 talking about chuckholes, and I'm pretty sure
7 that if they don't get garbage collected in
8 time one day, you'll be talking about vehicles
9 and garbage trucks, why don't you have them.
10 I'm pretty sure that you'll be talking about
11 the condition of public facilities. Well, the
12 world doesn't begin or end with a DOJ report.
13 I got to run the City and I have to run a city
14 in way that addresses not only the operational
15 needs, but the capital needs.

16 So that bond issuance was around
17 upgrading our fleet so that we have ability to
18 plow snow, pick up trash, dump trucks. It was
19 about upgrading our facilities so that we can
20 make the necessary repairs and build new
21 facilities. It was about roads and bridges so
22 that we can have leverage money to bring in
23 additional state and NOACA dollars to repair
24 our roads and our bridges, and things like --
25 so that's what that was about.

1 Also, it was about how do we increase
2 private investment into communities that have
3 challenges, through private investment. So
4 the City doesn't stop, begin or end with that.
5 Also, in that bond issuance is money for body
6 cameras for police. So you know, it's a city
7 to run, and with all of its challenges at any
8 moment in time.

9 Yes, ma'am?

10 REPORTER: To go back to the
11 walk-out from the meeting the other night,
12 which you said you supported, I mean, it seems
13 to me like the priority would be the
14 rebuilding public confidence that the
15 administration is responsive to their
16 concerns, and that activity seems like, even
17 if the feelings of those officials were
18 legitimate, it certainly doesn't contribute to
19 rebuilding trust.

20 MAYOR JACKSON: I don't -- I've yet
21 to here anybody from the public disagree with
22 their action. But I think the reason why they
23 walked out and what led to their walk out
24 didn't contribute to public trust either. So
25 I've yet to hear anybody complain about the

1 actions that they took. I don't know for
2 sure, because I didn't talk to the
3 demonstrators, but from what I hear, they were
4 fully aware that it had nothing to do with
5 them. I believe there are council members who
6 realized that they had nothing to do with
7 them.

8 You have to be here and you have to
9 experience here, in order to have a greater
10 appreciation for what they did and why. These
11 are professional people. They just don't do
12 stuff on a whim, and particularly, they don't
13 do stuff and the first thing, what's the Mayor
14 going to say about this. They just don't do
15 those kind of things. So if they did it, they
16 did it, and they didn't -- it wasn't planned,
17 and it was spontaneous and it was in unison.

18 But the public trust is something that
19 we value and that we work on constantly.
20 Losing trust is a hard thing to regain. So we
21 know that, so we value.

22 Yes?

23 REPORTER: My last question.
24 Did the Tamir Rice shooting influence or
25 change your thinking towards that DOJ report,

1 in terms of maybe even a position you would
2 take or push back, or anything of that
3 nature? How did that change (inaudible) of
4 their actions?

5 MAYOR JACKSON: The Tamir Rice
6 shooting, let me put it this way and then I'll
7 get specific. You know you've asked me and
8 every reporter I know has always asked me,
9 what are you most proud about and what are the
10 things that you -- my constant answer is what?
11 Ask me when I'm no longer Mayor and I'll tell
12 you what I'm proud about and what I'm not
13 proud about, and then because at that time,
14 I'll be no longer Mayor, I can have time to
15 reflect. I will tell you that if you ask me
16 that question on the day, I would say the
17 shooting of Tamir Rice was the worst time I've
18 experienced as Mayor. You know, that's
19 completely contrary to what I have said,
20 right?

21 So if you asked me that right now, so
22 that has impacted on me. It's the impact it
23 has on this city and to be perfectly honest
24 with you, the impact it has on this Division
25 of Police, and the men and women of the Police

1 Department. So, with that, when you look at
2 this DOJ report, you can't escape that being
3 in your mind, because it has become part of
4 Cleveland now. It's a part that I really have
5 a difficult time talking about.

6 REPORTER: Regarding the Tamir
7 Rice shooting, the surveillance tape which was
8 captured, when will that be released?

9 MAYOR JACKSON: Surveillance, I think
10 they released it, didn't they?

11 REPORTER: Oh.

12 MAYOR JACKSON: You're talking about
13 the one at the gazebo on the shooting?

14 REPORTER: Yeah, but the tape at
15 the news conference a week or two ago, it cuts
16 off immediately after --

17 MAYOR JACKSON: Oh, you mean in its
18 entirety?

19 REPORTER: Correct.

20 MAYOR JACKSON: That, I do not know.
21 You would have to talk to our Law Department
22 communications and do a public records
23 request, and that will go through the process,
24 and they will make that determination based on
25 the investigation, and whether they think it

1 is appropriate or not. But I don't know. I
2 know it was, as they told you then, it was for
3 a short period of time.

4 REPORTER: If Melanie can speak
5 to that course one last time (inaudible) can
6 understand, but you mentioned how you can
7 become institutionalized in your thinking --

8 MAYOR JACKSON: Uh-huh.

9 REPORTER: -- and maybe you
10 don't see things as clearly --

11 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I said we all
12 are.

13 REPORTER: We all are --

14 MAYOR JACKSON: We all are. I mean,
15 it's just a fact of life.

16 (Talking over each other.)

17 REPORTER: -- outside in life.

18 MAYOR JACKSON: Right.

19 REPORTER: You don't think that
20 would be the case, though, with Safety
21 Director McGrath or Mr. Flask, or any of
22 them? You don't feel like they're too
23 institutionalized to see --

24 MAYOR JACKSON: No, no, I --

25 REPORTER: -- to see the full

1 picture?

2 MAYOR JACKSON: Let me put it to you
3 this way; we are all institutionalized in some
4 form or another. Once you become part of an
5 organization, you stay there a while, it
6 happens. It's inevitable. That's why I go
7 back to saying I appreciate the demonstrators,
8 because they kind of shed a black and white
9 light on this thing, know what I mean; where
10 we're clouded sometimes, because we're caught
11 up in process and procedure.

12 Now, to say that they're not part of a
13 system, to say that they're not part of, as
14 the young people would say, we're part of the
15 establishment, would be wrong. Yeah, they're
16 part of the establishment. So am I and so are
17 you. The question becomes, as Layla and Mark
18 has pointed out, is whether or not there's
19 clarity in their decision-making and
20 effectiveness in their decision-making. I
21 happen to have confidence in that part of
22 them. But, yes, they're institutionalized,
23 just like I am and you are, but not to the
24 point that they're ineffective. That's the
25 point I'm making.

1 REPORTER: I understand. As far
2 as the Consent Decree, following up on that
3 question, you don't anticipate the DOJ saying
4 that, you know, the departure of those two or
5 if one of those two should be part of the
6 Consent Decree; and if it is, you're saying
7 it's off the table? (Inaudible.)

8 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I think
9 Mr. Dettelbach said that that is not the
10 purview of his report. Neither will it be
11 part of how he's going to proceed in terms of
12 a Consent Decree or a monitor.

13 REPORTER: So you don't expect
14 him to push (inaudible) --

15 MAYOR JACKSON: No, I don't expect
16 him to do that. Now, I do expect the Plain
17 Dealer to continue down that path, and I do
18 expect demonstrators to do that too. I do
19 expect that. But in terms of Mr. Dettelbach,
20 I think he was very clear that that's not what
21 he's looking at. He's looking at the pattern
22 and the practices, and what we need to do to
23 correct that, not at personnel issues or
24 leadership issue.

25 REPORTER: You talked about the

1 demonstrators. What about blocking motorists
2 trying to get home from work?

3 MAYOR JACKSON: Well, you know,
4 that's the inconvenience of freedom. It's an
5 inconvenience of people exercising their
6 Constitutional right. You know, there was a
7 lot of Twittering and Facebooking around, they
8 should do something about this. I got to get
9 home. You know, they was having rush hour
10 rage, demonstration rage, right?

11 But we're not going to do that. We're
12 going to allow people to demonstrate, and they
13 have a right to demonstrate, as long as they
14 stay within -- you know, they weren't violent.
15 They were actually being very respectful and
16 they didn't disobey anything. They say we
17 want to go over here, we said, okay, let's
18 take you over here. We want to block -- they
19 going to block the freeway, we stopped the
20 traffic on the freeway, we didn't want them to
21 get runned over. So I didn't have a problem
22 with it.

23 I know that from -- I don't do Twitter
24 or Facebook, but those who do do it, told me
25 about frustration and anxiety of some

1 commuters and all that. But I think weighing
2 all of the factors involved and looking at
3 what they had a right to do, and the way in
4 which they did it, I didn't have a problem
5 with it.

6 Well, I thank you very much. I thank
7 you. Before you leave, I do want to say to
8 you that I'm going to have ongoing
9 conversation. It may not be when you want it
10 or it may not be as frequent, but we will have
11 ongoing conversations with you, in regards to
12 whatever's happening at that time. Dan
13 Williams is the communications person. You
14 will find that if you try to go around him,
15 you might not get anything done, but if you go
16 directly to him, we will figure out a way in
17 which to accommodate your wishes, okay?

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Recording concluded.)

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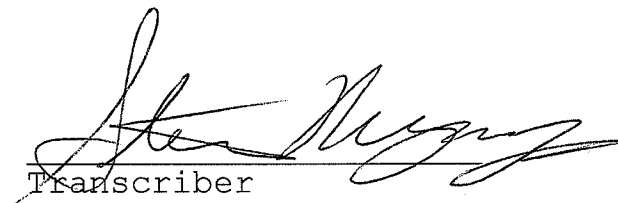
24

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1 State of Ohio,)
) SS:
2 County of Cuyahoga.)
3

4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5
6 I, Steven E. Mengelkamp, do hereby
7 certify that I have transcribed the
8 proceedings of the digital audio recording
9 of the continued press conference of Mayor
10 Frank Jackson, at Cleveland City Hall,
11 601 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, on
12 Thursday, December 11, 2014, and that the
13 foregoing is a true and accurate transcript
14 made to the best of my ability.
15

16
17
18
19 
Transcriber

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