

OPENING STATEMENT FOR CHAIRMAN RON JOHNSON
Oversight of DHS Personnel Deployments to Recent Protests
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

Federal Protective Service Officer David Patrick Underwood was 53 on May 29th, when he was shot dead guarding a federal building in Oakland, California during a protest. His partner was also shot, but survived. News reports said the protest, involving approximately 8,000 people, “turned chaotic and violent” as “demonstrators smashed windows, looted stores” and broke into a bank a few blocks from where Officer Underwood was on duty.

The suspect had killed a sheriff’s deputy a few days before. His anti-police views drew him to Oakland, where he saw the anti-police protest as an opportunity for more bloodshed.

David Dorn was a retired police chief of St. Louis. He responded to the alarm going off at a shop owned by his friend during a night of anti-police protests that turned into a night of looting. Chief Dorn, 77 years old, father of five, grandfather of 10, died on June 2 in the anarchy unleashed in St. Louis.

Unfortunately, the violence did not end there. Just yesterday morning, protesters in Portland broke into a police association building and started a fire inside. Protesters slashed a truck’s tires. Shots were fired. It was the sixty-ninth straight day of what we’re constantly told are “peaceful protests” against the existence of police in Portland.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, 277 attacks on police and federal officers throughout America have occurred during those “peaceful protests” that started in May.

At least 140 federal officers have been injured in Portland alone. At least 113 federal officers have suffered injuries to their sight after “peaceful protesters” have deliberately attempted to blind them with lasers and other weapons.

At least 930 non-federal law enforcement officers have been injured. At least one has died.

At least 38 federal officers have been “doxed” in Portland — meaning personal information about them, such as addresses or phone numbers, were put online as a means of intimidation.

At least 21 federal courthouses have been vandalized this summer.

Protesters in Nashville broke into City Hall and lit fires in late May. A woman charged this week was caught on video holding a poster reading “Fuck the Police,” lighting it, and tossing it into a broken window.

Protesters in suburban Denver broke into a courthouse and lit fires. Protesters in Minneapolis burned down a police station. Others tried doing the same in Seattle. A “peaceful protest” in Oakland in July “intensified,” as news reports put it, after protesters set fires inside a courthouse and launched fireworks at officers.

During a “peaceful” protest in Madison, Wisconsin, at least one individual hurled a gasoline bomb into the City-County Building, which holds the city’s 911 dispatch center and a jail. That night also

included the beating of at least two individuals, one of them a state lawmaker who collapsed into the landscaping near the state Capitol.

These “peaceful” protests that include arson and assault have left a mark on our cities, our culture, and our country. As journalist Michael Tracey recently wrote, “From large metro areas like Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul, to small and mid-sized cities like Fort Wayne, Indiana and Green Bay, Wisconsin, the number of boarded up, damaged or destroyed buildings I have personally observed — commercial, civic, and residential — is staggering. Keeping exact count is impossible. One might think that a major media organization such as the New York Times would use some of their galactic journalistic resources to tally up the wreckage for posterity. But roughly six weeks later, and such a tally is still nowhere to be found.”

And while police were tied up dealing with “peaceful” protests, homicides elsewhere in our cities were skyrocketing. By the end of July, homicides are up 53% in Chicago over the same period in 2019.

In Minneapolis, murders are up 86%.

In Milwaukee, 84%. In New York, 29%. In Atlanta, 34%. In Seattle, 42%. In Philadelphia, 33%. In New Orleans, 36%. In Denver, 46%.

Those numbers measure the loss of human lives. Many are black lives that don’t seem to matter much to the movement. Some are children whose lives have been cut tragically short, children whose lives and names matter. In Chicago alone, child victims include:

15 year old Terrance Malden.

15 year old Jeremiah James — shot in the head.

15 year old Michael Ike.

14 year old Vernardo Jones Jr.

10 year old Lena Nunez.

7 year old Natalia Wallace — shot at a backyard party.

3 year old Mekhi James — killed when someone shot at his father’s car in traffic.

1 year old Sincere Gaston — killed when someone shot at his mother’s car.

And that’s just since Memorial Day — in one city.

These people have died because criminals killed them. But they may have also died because police were constrained and prevented from doing their job to protect them.

When you encourage disdain for police, you encourage criminals. When you do little or nothing to stop riots, you unleash anarchy.

And when you encourage criminals and unleash anarchy, people die. And all of us suffer.