



City of Martinez

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July 12, 2020

Dear Community:

I wanted to provide closure on the protest activity that occurred today. There was a large turnout and while the day was filled with several instances in which there were a few arguments between folks in the crowd, people kept their calm and there was no escalation and no reported violence. We had a few reports of small arguments and minor physical confrontations, but no major issues.

I wanted to thank the organizers for keeping the peace and working with us on the planning of the event. I also wanted to thank the community for their patience. I know our downtown businesses have had to endure a great deal this year, and the inconvenience of boarding up windows in advance of this protest added to the worry and frustration; I appreciate your resilience.

For all of the police officers, dispatchers, non-sworn professional staff, reserve police officers, city staff, and volunteers that worked today – I appreciate your dedication. We were also fortunate to have a large contingent of officers from every agency in this county and we appreciate their assistance. While we did not need to use the additional resources, having them nearby and available was comforting. We could not have been as prepared without them, so I sincerely thank them for coming to support and safeguard our community in our time of need.

These events are challenging to deal with, especially when they present themselves with little time to prepare. We are all thankful that there were no major issues today.

We appreciate your patience and understanding throughout the last week.

Sincerely,

Manjit Sappal
Chief of Police