

# Mayor's Public Safety Initiative for Annapolis Businesses

## Protecting Your Business: Civil Unrest



Police Chief Mike Pristoop  
Fire Chief David Stokes  
Deputy Fire Chief Kevin J. Simmons



# Why protest?

- Most demonstrations are for the purpose of influencing government/institutional policies or legislation
- Voices of the non-influential can be heard
- Power of the protest
- Creation of a new normal
- Not all protests are a negative movement

# Who are protesters?

- Protesters are:
  - Passionate citizens that want their voices heard
- People in your community
  - Neighbors
  - Employees
  - Customers
  - Friends
  - Family

# Why protest in Annapolis?

- Seat of State government
- High profile
- Lawyers' Mall
- Symbolism

# The U.S. was built on protests

- Boston Tea Party
- Civil War
- Women's Suffrage Movement
- Civil Rights
- Right to Life

# The right to peaceful assembly

- The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees people the right to peaceably assemble and to petition their government to address grievances.
  - On rare occasions, that line is crossed, and that is when public safety becomes a concern

# Civil Protest

- An organized public demonstration of disapproval with a particular action, idea or incident
  - Civil protest often takes place after a significant and/or controversial event.
- Common protest locations:
  - Scene of the event
  - Most media coverage available
  - Disruption of a government function
  - Important landmarks

# Civil Disobedience

- The active, professed refusal to obey certain laws, demands, or commands of a government, or of an occupying international power.
  - Civil disobedience is sometimes, though not always, defined as being nonviolent resistance.
- Examples of nonviolent resistance: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi

# Types of Civil Protest

- Peaceful and Non-Disruptive



Example: Peaceful protesters gathered outside of the courthouse following the decision not to indict officers in Ferguson, Missouri

# Types of Civil Protest

- Peaceful and Disruptive



Example: Peaceful protesters blocking traffic

# Types of Civil Protest

- Violent and Disruptive



Example: Riots in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray, Ferguson, MO riots, and riots in Los Angeles following the arrest of Rodney King

# Radical Groups

"We in Fight Imperialism-  
Stand Together (FIST)  
say the police are not  
our friends... We say  
the cops should be  
disarmed... This whole  
system that only offers  
more prisons, cops,  
poverty, and wars  
needs to be torn  
down."

## Youth Have The Right To Say: **FUCK THE POLICE**

How many times has this happened? The cops kill somebody and get away with it. An innocent person is killed for being Black. Every day cops are pushing youth around. Young people can't get a decent job and the schools look more like prisons. Its hard enough to get by in these hard times, even without them straight up killing people. Why should the next generation be brought up in a world of fear and terror? Youth are the future. Don't they deserve better?

What's wrong with "Fuck The Police"? Who said protests must be tame, polite, and respectful? People have been lighting candles, singing hymns, and writing letters for years, but people keep dying, and life keeps getting worse. If things are going get better, we must raise hell!

A big explosion is coming, and it is going to shake this whole country. The people won't stand for this any longer. The people that run this system know what is coming. They are sending all kinds of people to Baltimore, telling everyone to "stay calm", "speak respectfully", "don't protest." Calming down and moving on with life will mean letting the police off the hook! If you want things to change, its time to be loud, bold, and filled with rage.

What's wrong with "Fuck the Police?" These pigs think they can kill people and get away with it. They call our peaceful marches "Lynch Mobs." Why do these monsters deserve our respect? Its time to shout "Fuck the police", and keep shouting it until something changes. We can't be silent anymore. The killing and police brutality must stop now! Lets shut things down. Let the cops and the people who run this system be the ones who feel terrified for once!

We in Fight Imperialism - Stand Together (FIST) say the police are not our friends. They serve a racist system. We say the cops should be disarmed. The people can run the community without these murdering thugs. We need a new government that focuses on providing schools, hospitals, decent jobs and housing for everyone. This whole system, that only offers more prisons, cops, poverty, and wars, needs to be torn down.

**WE NEED A REVOLUTION! STAY IN THE STREETS!  
TEAR DOWN THE RACIST LOW-WAGE POLICE STATE! BUILD PEOPLES POWER!**

Get With Baltimore FIST - 410-914-8280

# How does the City of Annapolis look out for you and your business?

In the event of Civil Protests, the City of Annapolis' government officials will ...

- Disseminate timely and accurate information to local businesses
- Support peaceful protests and the right to assemble
- Maintain public order
- Invoke the mayor's emergency powers if warranted
  - Curfew activation
  - Emergency Declaration



# Unified Command

- The Unified Command organization consists of the Incident Commanders from the various jurisdictions or agencies operating together to form a single command structure.
  - Establishes a common set of incident objectives and strategies
  - Allows Incident Commanders to make joint decisions by establishing a single command structure
  - Maintains unity of command supporting the Annapolis Police Department as the lead agency



# Lessons Learned...

- Preplanning is critical.
- Immediate interagency cooperation and a unified command structure are essential.
- Clear communications are necessary for effective operations.
- Access to helicopters for overhead assessments is a plus.
- Move or empty trash dumpsters; they are easy targets of arson.
- Extinguish fires immediately, if possible, because they draw large groups of individuals to one area.
- Alcohol is a significant contributor to violence.
- Responders need to be prepared for decon; large numbers of people may be exposed to "pepper spray" and other irritants.
- Fire and EMS personnel may become targets of violence.

# Annapolis Police Department

- Preparation and Training for Civil Unrest
- Permit vs. Non-permit Protests
- What to expect

# Annapolis Fire Department

## Non-violent Protests

- Additional personnel at the ready
- Preparation for higher EMS call volumes
- Open communication with mutual aid partners in the event that additional resources are needed

## Violent Protests

- Remove equipment such as axes, hooks, and poles from the outside of apparatus
- Never leave the pump panel operator alone
- Do not overhaul; employ "hit-and-run" firefighting tactics
- Be prepared to decontaminate multiple individuals
- The use of tactical medics to support law enforcement operations is encouraged.
- Be very cautious of any event or activity that arouses your curiosity

# What can you do to be prepared?

- Remain calm
- Be prepared to receive information from the Annapolis Police Department and/or the Office of Emergency Management
  - Be wary of unofficial social media information
- If you see something, say something
- Meet with local authorities and other businesses in your area to discuss mitigation plans
- Consider increasing security visibility on the days when demonstrations are planned
- Avoid obstructing or provoking protesters

# What can you do to be prepared in the event of civil unrest?

- Have emergency phone numbers readily available
  - Dial 9-1-1
- Protecting your property is not worth your life
  - Avoid confrontation, let property go
- Evacuation Procedures
  - All employees should have a copy of a facility layout and evacuation plan
  - If you have more than one location, ensure that each location is ready with a plan specific to that building
- Shelter in Place
  - Establish locations throughout your business in the event that it is safer for employees to stay rather than evacuating
  - Lock doors and close blinds

# Contact Information

Annapolis Police Department:

410-268-9000

(dial 911 in an emergency)

[police@annapolis.gov](mailto:police@annapolis.gov)

Annapolis Fire Department:

410-263-7975

(dial 911 in an emergency)

[afdinfo@annapolis.gov](mailto:afdinfo@annapolis.gov)

Office of Emergency

Management:

410-216-9167

[OEM@annapolis.gov](mailto:OEM@annapolis.gov)

