



Sheriff Denita R. Ball

Dear Aldermen Spiker and Burgelis:

Regarding a concert and its aftermath at Washington Park the evening of Wednesday, June 19, please accept this synopsis of, and additional context for, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office's preliminary news conference statement originally given that evening.

At about 8:25 PM, the T4TC (This is 4 the city) music event in Washington Park was ended early by event organizers over concerns about unruly behavior and multiple fights breaking out between large groups of unsupervised youth. Fights continued, even as attendees began exiting the event. At 8:53 PM, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) was notified that another fight amongst a group of about 50 youth was imminent at the northeast corner of Washington Park (essentially, the corner of N. 42nd & West Lloyd streets), adjacent to the playground. A plain-clothed MCSO detective arrived and immediately observed a male firing what investigators believe was a fully automatic or fully automatic-converted firearm indiscriminately from the intersection of 42nd and Lloyd back towards the playground, striking a 17-year-old male multiple times. The detective immediately engaged the suspect, firing his service weapon. The suspect then fled northbound on foot from 42nd and Lloyd, running between homes. Another detective pursued the suspect into an alleyway and took him into custody at gunpoint. The suspect, whom detectives later learned is also 17, was uninjured and was medically cleared by the Milwaukee Fire Department. Lifesaving measures were performed on the victim by MCSO, and he was transported to an area hospital for treatment but was later pronounced deceased at that hospital. At about 9:35 PM, MCSO was notified by a local hospital that another gunshot victim, a 15-year-old male, had walked into the hospital for treatment. Investigators believe the 15-year-old was injured in this same shooting incident.

The detective who engaged the shooting suspect is a 27-year veteran of the MCSO and has been placed on administrative leave per agency policy. The MCSO is the lead investigative agency of this homicide and the shooting incident at large. To recap: the first victim, a 17-year-old male from Milwaukee, is deceased. The second victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries and is also from Milwaukee. The 17-year-old shooting suspect was previously arrested by the MCSO on May 20 on a charge of Felon in Possession of Firearm. But he had since been released from custody on a \$750 cash bail. Charges in this incident will be referred to the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office in the coming days.

Three weapons were recovered during this homicide/shooting incident. Throughout the evening at the concert event in the park, MCSO deputies recovered an additional five firearms from individuals in and around the concert venue.

**ADDITIONAL CONTEXT:**

This investigation continues to develop while detectives investigate this homicide that was committed at an incident location that was very dynamic. As with any large investigation, details may change, and gaps in information will be filled. When our agency is confident that further investigative details can be released, a formal statement will be made.

This concert was an add on event that was not part of the original yearlong planning for the Juneteenth Holiday celebration that occurred at Clinton Rose Park and along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. This event was brought to our attention approximately two weeks prior to the event date. The event was permitted by the Milwaukee County Parks Department and listed an anticipated attendance of "500+." The MCSO anticipated the turnout to be much more than that and committed a great deal of staffing to reflect that. We were told that there were two armed and seven unarmed security personnel provided by the event and were on scene during the event.

As it related to the MCSO's staffing for the event, The MCSO had the following assigned:

- 20 Uniformed Deputies
- 14 Plain Clothes Detectives
- 6 supervisory personnel
- 1 Incident Commander
- Total: 41 total personnel committed on site for the event
- MCSO also had 26 Mobile Response Team (MRT) members who were staged off site in case a decision needed to be made by the Incident Commander to force a closure of the event. MRT members were utilized after the shooting incident to help stabilize the crime scene.

Additionally, the Milwaukee Police Department had a contingent of officers assigned to the immediate areas surrounding Washington Park.

During the evening our supervisory personnel made multiple attempts to contact the event coordinator to discuss the deteriorating environment, as it related to attendees and the law enforcement responses that our agency was dealing with both inside the concert area and on its direct periphery. Three phone calls, two FaceTime communication attempts, and multiple text messages were sent that all went unanswered and unreturned. Event personnel on stage eventually made the decision to end the concert at approximately 8:25 PM. Attendees did disperse relatively quickly, however, additional fights involving multiple groups of young people continued to occur throughout the entire park, leading up to the shooting incident and homicide referenced above.

We apologize that we were not able to attend your meeting, as we had prior meeting commitments related to the upcoming Republican National Convention in Milwaukee. But we trust that this written brief provides you with a contextual accounting of the MCSO's preparation for the event in question and our response to its conclusion and aftermath.

As an agency, we value our relationship with the City of Milwaukee and look forward to continued partnership with all the municipalities of Milwaukee County, as we work to make ours the safest region in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Hughes, Chief Deputy Sheriff  
On behalf of Sheriff Denita R. Ball

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**"WE ARE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD – AND WE OUGHT TO BE PROUD."**

For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, visit our website at [MKESheriff.org](http://MKESheriff.org) and our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountySheriff](https://www.facebook.com/MilwaukeeCountySheriff).