

EXHIBIT M

From: Madden, Ursula ursula.madden@memphistn.gov
Subject: RE: anniversary of the bridge protest - what's changed?
Date: June 27, 2017 at 4:17 PM
To: Wendi Thomas wendithomas@mlk50.com
Cc: Veazey, Kyle kyle.veazey@memphistn.gov



Hi Wendi,

Objectivity dictates if the mayor does one on one interviews. You have demonstrated, particularly on social media, that you are not objective when it comes to Mayor Strickland. He is responsive, and his team is responsive to all. We constantly share data and information to keep the public informed about what's happening in this administration—in fact, we communicate more than any local government entity ever has, and the public recognizes that.

I won't say that he will never do an interview with MLK50Memphis, but I will say that you've never given him a reason to consider it.

1. The mayor has not changed his mind about hiring Director Rallings.
2. We have shared MWBE data, including black business data. To suggest otherwise is incorrect. The previous administration did not track black businesses specifically. But we do. So we have provided current numbers but cannot provide growth because we don't have a basis number from the former administration. But you know this because you asked the previous administration for this same information, right?

Here's a story from a few days ago on a national program the city was invited to participate in to help increase MWBE. This puts us in the same league as Chicago, Charlotte, LA and Milwaukee.
<https://www.memphisflyer.com/NewsBlog/archives/2017/06/22/city-receives-grant-to-enhance-diversity-of-city-vendors-contractors>

3. This city offered Spring Break camps at every community center for the first time, this year. 1,017 kids went to city camps for spring break.

Sixteen of our 19 library branches now have extended hours with all branches being open six days per week. It's an additional 145 hours per week. The FY18 budget has just under a half a million dollars to hire part time employees to enhance some existing library programs such as Cloud901.

Here's the link on Explore Memphis:
<http://www.memphislibrary.org/explorememphis/>

Here's our Summer in Memphis guide:
http://www.memphistn.gov/portals/0/pdf_forms/sim-2017.pdf

4. I know that Director Rallings has spoken directly to many of the protesters since July 10, 2016. Have the protesters you talked with specifically asked the director about this? To determine who provides in-service training for MPD, you need to contact MPD—but all officers have in-service training every year. MPD would also be able to provide you with its community policing efforts.

The MOU with the DOJ was signed off on a while ago. You and I personally talked on the phone about how this administration was exploring a best practices review for MPD with either IACP or DOJ (including use of force) months before the bridge protest happened.

The mayor thinks that the just and equitable treatment of our young people is important. But since county government administers Juvenile Court and not the city, you would need to speak with the Shelby County Mayor, and the District Attorney General.

Thanks,

Ursula

From: Wendi Thomas [mailto:wendictomas@mlk50.com]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 6:53 PM
To: Madden, Ursula
Cc: Veazey, Kyle
Subject: Re: anniversary of the bridge protest - what's changed?

I'm really disappointed to hear that the mayor has chosen not to respond. Does the mayor ever plan to talk to MLK50 or just not for this story?

Allow me to follow up on the four requests:

1. Most of the organizers we've talked with have deep regrets about this.
2. The request also named black business contracting specifically, but when the mayor touts the increase in MWBE spending, he does not disaggregate the data. What's the thinking on the continued refusal to share the information in the format that the protesters requested? Also, what is the increase for black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American and women-owned businesses specifically?

Here's a link to the Flyer's story where the request for black business data was made specifically.

http://cp.mcafee.com/d/avndy1J5wQsLfFEEL6zASrhhhhovjvspdEEEEIfFK8ECPpISHWG Nel9MUzkOrjTTxl5xdUIQwethSXUHKIT5mbEqaLnIwaAfjgQw_G11fPpISrdAVPmEBC5 elZloDazFVrUYLwcYNgpfGhPoS9Oc_j4XEKpstyb6gYMnJnjVjBm luHFuRom-cfgebSBegFYa5SRAdDZ2W7GX12xtSIiZ9NBogvI43pJwQsFL6PtPqpJUTsTsSyrh

Also, please direct me to reports, stories, evidence that the growth is turning heads nationally. I've somehow missed that.

3. Do you have more specifics? Which branches are now open on Fridays? How many children were enrolled at spring break camps and in what neighborhoods were those camps held? What are some other specific examples of expanded community programming?

4. The protesters we've talked to are not aware of cultural sensitivity training being led by organizers, as was the request. Who is leading this training, when is it occurring and how many officers have completed it?

From the Flyer story: "The caveat to the cultural sensitivity training is that it needs to be led by local activists and organizers, preferably younger activists and organizers. The people who lead that should be vetted and be people who have a history of organizing and being engaged in that type of work," said the Rev. Earle Fisher.

When was the DOJ MOU re the review of the use of force requested?

Also, and this isn't directly related to our bridge protest stories, when at the May breakfast with Attorney General Jeff Sessions where releasing Juvenile Court from DOJ supervision came up, what was the mayor's contribution to that conversation? When was he aware that the county planned to make that request via letter? Did he support that decision?

Thanks in advance for all your help.

Wendi C. Thomas

Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism

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On Jun 26, 2017, at 1:45 PM, Madden, Ursula
<ursula.madden@memphistn.gov> wrote:

Hi Wendi,

Thank you for your interest to interview the mayor, but we will respectfully decline.

Last year, the group that protested made four requests:

1. **Name Michael Rallings police director.**
Director Rallings was named Police Director on August 7, 2016.
2. **Increase minority contracting.**
We continue to do this. When the mayor took office, 12.63 percent of city contract spending went to MWBEs. That number is now more than 21 percent. That's a 68 percent increase in share. The City is turning heads nationally with what we're doing on MWBE contracting.
3. **Increase crime prevention through community programming.**
We are doing this. We've extended library hours, many branches are

now open on Friday. We've increased programming at libraries and introduced more programming in our community centers, including spring break camps (for the first time) and literacy components in summer camps.

4. **Increase community policing training and cultural sensitivity training.** The officers of the Memphis Police Department are doing this. We also have an MOU with the U.S. Department of Justice COPS program to review our community policing strategies and use of force.

Thanks,

Ursula

From: Wendi Thomas [<mailto:wendictomas@mlk50.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Veazey, Kyle; Madden, Ursula
Subject: Fwd: anniversary of the bridge protest - what's changed?

Following up. Haven't heard anything and my deadline is Thursday. Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wendi Thomas <wendictomas@mlk50.com>
Date: June 22, 2017 at 11:53:47 PM CDT
To: "Madden, Ursula" <ursula.madden@memphistn.gov>, "Veazey, Kyle" <kyle.veazey@memphistn.gov>
Subject: anniversary of the bridge protest - what's changed?

Ursula and Kyle:

I hope this finds you doing well. The MLK50 team is working on stories about the first anniversary of the bridge protest.

I know protesters met with the mayor, not just at the community forum, but in smaller groups following the protest. I wanted to talk to the mayor about those meetings and what he sees as the city's responses/solutions to concerns voiced during the protest/forum/later meetings. I'd also like to talk about some of the concerns around police surveillance and what organizers/activists feel is a hyper-policed response to protests.

I'd like to meet in person, if possible. My deadline is Thursday afternoon - I'm free between noon and 3 p.m. Monday, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, and 9 a.m. to

2 p.m. Thursday.

Thanks in advance,

Wendi

Wendi C. Thomas

Editor, MLK50: Justice Through Journalism

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