



July 8, 2020

Bruce Brown
Executive Director
The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
1156 15th St NW, Suite 1020
Washington, D.C. 20005

Via email: bbrown@rcfp.org

Executive Director Brown:

We are in receipt of your concerns related to interactions some Denver Police Department officers may have had with the press during the recent protest activities. Like you, we are also concerned about the nature of the allegations of which we have been made aware. I want to assure you that Chief Pazen and I are working in collaboration with the Office of the Independent Monitor to ensure that all complaints received are investigated, including those identified in your letter. Additionally, we are working with our local media outlets to fully hear their concerns and develop immediate steps and an overall strategy moving forward. Any officer who is found to have violated policy will be appropriately disciplined. As we instructed our local media outlets, we hope that the individuals identified in your letter will fully cooperate with our Internal Affairs investigators to ensure that we have all information necessary to make an informed decision regarding the conduct of any involved officers.

Denver's law enforcement officers are trained to respect First Amendment rights, and any intentional violation of such rights will not be condoned or tolerated under my leadership. As required by the settlement with Susan Greene, Denver Police will be holding enhanced First Amendment training by the end of 2020. We certainly do not permit any Denver law enforcement officer to intentionally and inappropriately target the media or anyone who is simply engaging in filming or photographing. We understand that covering the protests has been a dangerous assignment due to the criminal activities that have erupted because of certain individuals who were not present for the purpose of engaging in peaceful protest. The Mayor, Chief Pazen and I recognize and respect the valuable role the media has played in covering what has occurred in Denver and throughout the United States over the last week.

We are also in the process of reviewing Denver police policies related to law enforcement management of mass demonstrations, including the handling of situations—like those we have seen over the past several days—that have erupted into violent, dangerous situations and resulting criminal conduct. We are certainly open to the possibility of creating a task

force to engage in discussions regarding such policies and welcome the involvement of the media

In developing our policies, training and procedures we will strongly consider the suggested protocols you outlined on pages four and five of your letter. We sincerely appreciate the fact that you took the time to reach out to us directly to identify situations that need to be investigated regarding the recent conduct of Denver law enforcement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Murphy F. Robinson III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Murphy" being the most prominent.

Murphy F. Robinson III
Executive Director of Public Safety

cc: Michael B. Hancock, Mayor, City and County of Denver
Paul M. Pazen, Chief of Police, Denver Police Department