



A. Peter Shahid, Jr.

District 9

City Council

September 1, 2020

GRIFFINH@charleston-sc.gov

Harry J. Griffin
Charleston City Council
Charleston, SC

Re: Events of May 30-31, 2020

Dear Harry:

Please accept the following response to your letter to Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General, dated August 28, 2020. You have requested that the State Attorney General's office "... provide oversight into the actions of our leadership on the night of May 30, 2020." In addition, you have alleged there has been a lack of transparency or accountability. Aside from your inaccurate assertions referenced therein, I am not sure exactly what you are seeking from Mr. Wilson's office and what authority he may possess for "oversight".

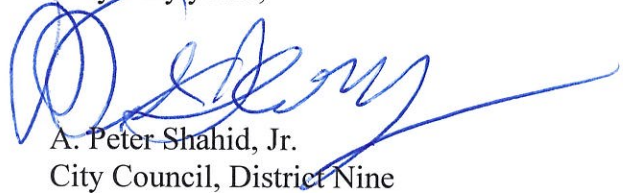
There is no evidence to suggest that law enforcement officers were ordered not to make arrests on the night of May 30-31. To the contrary they were directed to effectuate an arrest when they were safely able to do so.

I am dismayed that you have neglected to address any of your concerns raised in the aforementioned letter directly to City Council. As the Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, I had ensured that the Committee receive an update as to the Police Department's internal review of that day's unrest, including its preparation and command decisions. Ms. Heather Mulloy, City Assistant Corporation Counsel provided a memorandum dated July 1, 2020 regarding the FOIA review of police channel 3 audio recordings of May 30-May 31, 2020. She presented her review of 6.5 hours of audio from the Consolidated Dispatch Center before the duly called City Public Safety Committee on July 1, 2020 and reported that there was "no stand down order" ever issued. Even though you failed to attend this meeting, I shared Ms. Mulloy's memorandum with all members of City Council and reported her presentation before City Council on July 14, 2020. The minutes of that meeting reflect you having not raised one question or concern following Ms. Mulloy's memorandum or my summarization of her presentation.

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Before you sought the intervention of a state entity, the more effective practice perhaps would have been a direct conversation with Chief Luther Reynolds or a request that the Public Safety Committee add to its next agenda a specific issue you wished to have addressed, both of which you have failed to exercise. If you possess credible information which supports those allegations raised in your letter of August 28th forward them to me as Chair of the Public Safety Committee or produce them to Chief Reynolds. If no credible information exists then withdraw your request to Attorney General Wilson. Otherwise, the public may perceive your letter as an unjustified and misinformed exercise in futility.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Peter Shahid, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. Peter Shahid, Jr.
City Council, District Nine

cc: Henry McMaster, Governor
Alan Wilson, Attorney General
John Tecklenburg, Mayor
Charleston City Council
Luther Reynolds, Chief of Police
Mark Keel, Chief SLED