



Harry Joseph Griffin
District 10
City Council

August 28, 2020

Dear Attorney General Wilson,

On the night of May 30, 2020, the City of Charleston was pillaged, beaten, and destroyed in one of the most heinous circumstances many Charlestonians have ever seen. Not only was our business district decimated, but patrons and hospitality workers fled for their lives as it took hours, and even days, for our Charleston Police Department to respond. Some calls remain unanswered several months later. It was truly one of our darkest hours. It has been almost 90 days, but it seems as if most of our questions about that night will remain.

How can we expect our citizens to trust our City to protect us if we do not address that night, the events leading up to it, and the response? Who will take responsibility for the confusion faced by our officers when they saw acts of violence happen before their eyes but were told not to make arrests? I cannot see our City moving forward without some help and intervention on the state level.

I am in no way blaming our officers with boots on the ground. I am also not pointing a finger at the various departments that came to our aid that night and on subsequent nights that followed. Instead, I am asking for you to provide oversight into the actions of our leadership on the night of May 30th. What was the plan of action and was it carried out properly? Were contemporary police practices followed? Did our City make any serious mistakes that caused the situation that we faced?

I know that the Federal Government has backed away from providing oversight on local law enforcement, so I am asking for you to help us in Charleston. No area in this state faced the rioting, looting, burning, and destruction that we did.

This is a learning opportunity that I believe needs to happen. Our citizens are asking frequently for answers, but there is a lack of transparency or accountability when the subject of May 30th is brought up. Some oversight from our State Law Enforcement Division and your office would be greatly appreciated.

I thank you for your consideration and response.

Sincerely,

Harry J. Griffin
Charleston City Council, District 10

Cc: Governor Henry McMaster

Chief Mark Keel

Charleston City Council

Chief Luther Reynolds

Mayor John Tecklenburg