

Mayor G.T. Bynum's statement on JUSTulsa open letter

"This letter makes the case for diverse viewpoints to be heard (which I agree with), then chides me for offering my own viewpoint from the scene of the incident in question.

"As I said in my comments last week, two people can see the same event but perceive different things. I fully acknowledged that my life experience impacts how I think about the men and women in the Tulsa Police Department. After respectfully listening to speakers at the meeting share their impressions of the event, I shared mine.

"What is obvious is that there is a very broad gulf between those perceptions of our Department and the motives of the men and women who serve in it. I have committed the City of Tulsa to an open, transparent effort to bridge that divide - but it will take time and it will take dialogue.

"What should proactive policing look like in Tulsa? What causes crime to be more concentrated in some specific neighborhoods in Tulsa rather than in others? How do we address that? What are the underlying factors that lead Tulsans to commit crimes? How can we address those? These are all questions I hope every Tulsan will join in addressing.

"As we do, we must not lose sight of those Tulsans who are truly being harassed: the victims of crime in our community. At the Towne Square Apartments, over 260 9-1-1 calls have been made for Police service in 2019 so far. We have a responsibility to be proactive in trying to make victims' neighborhoods safer, and I am grateful for the men and women of the Tulsa Police Department who risk their lives every day in their service."