

After Action Report

ABSTRACT

This report reviews the actions of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office during the July 26, 2020 "Back the Blue" and August 1, 2020 "Black Lives Matter" rallies held in Berthoud, Colorado.

Prepared By

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To protect and preserve life, liberty, and property by providing superior public safety services in Larimer County.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Berthoud resident organized a “Back the Blue” Rally for the Town of Berthoud on Sunday July 26, 2020 beginning at 10:00 am. The rally was advertised on social media where self-described ANTIFA groups learned of the rally and announced plans to disrupt the rally.

Rally supporters began to assemble in the park as early as 8:00 am, while protesters began showing up at Turner Middle School around 9:00 am. Some of the Back the Blue participants walked over to Turner and there was an exchange of words. The protesters began playing music including the song “Fuck the Police” by NWA over a loudspeaker which incited verbal confrontation from both sides.

The counter-protesters began to walk to Fickel Park chanting "say their names" while being drowned out by Back the Blue rally participants chanting "U.S. A.". The Bicycle Response Team kept the two factions separated as they walked to the park. Once at the park, chants got louder and rhetoric from both sides became generally more heated. In an effort to keep the peace, deputies sought to keep the groups separated on opposite sides of the street.

Despite those efforts, members of those opposing groups began to approach each other in the street and were immediately met by a combination of bicycle and mounted posse deputies. Conflicts to include loud taunts and small scuffles were observed but the bicycle and mounted posse deputies separated individuals as quickly as they could. In one of the scuffles, a banner and a sign were ripped away from a protester by supporters of Back the Blue.

As it became apparent that the ANTIFA counter-protestors were significantly outnumbered by a group with some loud and hostile members, the counter-protestor group decided to leave the area and requested that deputies escort them back to their vehicles

The bicycle patrol deputies formed a line in front of the counter-protestors to clear a path for them to leave, while mounted posse deputies placed their horses behind the protestors to provide a barrier between the two groups. This tactic proved to be quite effective.

On July 30, the Sheriff's Office was advised that a 13-year-old was organizing a Black Lives Matter (BLM) Rally for the Town of Berthoud to occur on Saturday, August 1, 2020 beginning at 2:00 pm at Fickel Park. At that time, there was no indication that any counter protest of this rally was planned. Supporters of the BLM movement lined Mountain Avenue at Fickel Park leading chants of “Black Lives Matter!” and repeating the names of people who died in police encounters including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Elijah McClain.

Counter-protestors to the rally assembled across Mountain Avenue holding American and Thin Blue Line flags started chants of their own. Some of the protesters mingled with BLM supporters in the park. Near the beginning of the event a man wearing a Trump 2020 hat walked around the crowd blaring a siren, making it hard to hear the BLM supporters. Cars and motorcycles driving on Mountain Avenue frequently honked and yelled out the window in support of both groups. Rally supporters and protesters began to clear out by 4:15 pm.

At both events, citizens were observed open carrying firearms, but no threatening behavior was observed. Over the course of the two events, deputies did witness behavior that was course and disrespectful, however, constitutional protections of that speech during such events generally restrains deputies from acting in those cases. Other than creating physical barriers between opposing groups, sheriff's deputies did not employ any use of force as a crowd control measure during either event.

EVENT SCHEDULES

Back the Blue Rally	July 26, 2020	10:00am-2:00pm
Black Lives Matter Rally	August 1, 2020	2:00pm-4:00pm

Both events held at Fickel Park in Berthoud, CO.

AGENCIES INVOLVED

Larimer County Sheriff's Office

- Berthoud Squad
- Patrol Division
- Posse
- Reserve Unit

Colorado State University Police Department (as part of the Northern Colorado Regional Bicycle Response Team)

INCIDENT REPORT NUMBERS

LCSO: 20-6063 & 20-6236

CSU: 20-0682 & 20-0692

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man died in Minneapolis, Minnesota while being arrested by white officer Derek Chauvin and several other officers for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 dollar bill. This incident drew nearly universal rebuke from citizens and police officials alike and has resulted in criminal charges against the officers involved. The incident understandably sparked many protests and demonstrations nationwide. By some reports, it is estimated that between 15 and 26 million people have participated in some form or another in these protests.

According to recently released data from the Major City Chiefs' Association (MCCA), there were 8,700 protests documented nationwide from May 25 through July 31 with 574 of those protests declared as riots. Untold injuries and approximately 20 deaths have been documented during these events as well.

Over that period, the MCCA documented some 2,000 officers injured in these protests.

Several groups have used these protests to further their agenda, whether they are official spokesmen for the group or just using the name unofficially. We have seen extremists from both sides (left and right leaning) incite violence at the demonstrations for no particular reason other than to cause lawlessness. Law enforcement has been caught in the middle of the public expectation of allowing peaceful demonstration and stopping violence during these demonstrations. Nationwide, there are demands for extensive police reform including the defunding/abolishment of law enforcement. Anecdotally, it could be said almost every police station in the nation has experienced some kind of negative experience related to the death of George Floyd.

In response to the negative press law enforcement was receiving, some citizens began organizing "Back the Blue" / "Defend the Police" rallies in support of their local law enforcement officers. Some of these events have turned violent because of clashes with counter protesters who may or may not be associated with BLM or ANTIFA groups.

INTELLIGENCE

Previous Larimer County Events with Protesters

The LCSO has experienced a variety of small and large rallies and protests over the last decade and have used each one of them as an opportunity to learn and improve our response. We strive to open a channel of communication with event organizers and typically work with them to assure that they can be heard, while avoiding damage or violence. Some event organizers are quite cooperative, others choose not to communicate with us.

Since 2011, we have experienced

- Occupy Wall Street protests outside the Walmart Distribution Center in Loveland.
- Numerous presidential and vice-presidential candidate visits at The Ranch, CSU and other private venues. Several of these events included protesters and protest zones.
- At least 3 events of sizable protests of speakers hosted at CSU.
- Various protests inside and outside the Justice Center, as well as other county facilities.
- A peace march in Wellington following the death of George Floyd

Based on actional intelligence, the response for these events have included tight security protocols for the venue, increased patrol officers, Mobile Field Force/Tactical teams, physical barriers, and when appropriate, designated protest areas. In addition, considerations for mass arrest, mass casualty, fire suppression, and explosive ordinance disposal have been made.

Recent Regional Events

- Peaceful protests outside the Fort Collins Police Services building and marches from CSU to Old Town Fort Collins drew crowds of up to 1,000 people.
- July 25, 2020- An adult male was arrested on seven counts of 1st degree assault, felony menacing, and reckless driving after driving his SUV into a group of Back the Blue attendees in Eaton, CO.
- A vehicle drove through protesters on I-225 (Aurora, CO), which resulted in a shooting that injured two people on July 25th.
- Loveland residents hosted a Back the Blue rally near Lake Loveland on July 25th with no issues.
- Daily protests over several weeks in Denver resulted in millions of dollars in property damage to the State Capitol and in the surrounding area. Denver required

the assistance of numerous other police agencies, as well as the Colorado National Guard to restore peace.

- Several reports of vehicles striking pedestrians were made during the protests around the State Capitol building in Denver over the summer.
- A July 19 pro-police rally in Civic Center Park in Denver was disrupted by counter-protesters, resulting in many reported injuries.
- On August 8, a Back the Blue Rally outside the Fort Collins Police Department ended in a clash between opposing sides. As the counter protesters retreated, several were assaulted a few blocks from the police building, resulting in criminal charges.

Berthoud Events

The Back the Blue rally on July 26th received a lot of attention on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc.) which indicated it would be protested/disrupted by self-identified ANTIFA groups and “Fuck12” groups. A local law enforcement agency representative shared with us that ANTIFA showed up to one of their events carrying gas masks and AK-47/AR-15 rifles, but didn’t cause any real concern other than being very vocal.

There was a lot of focus on demonstrations in Aurora on Saturday night (July 25), and another in Pueblo on Sunday which would possibly divert some of the violent extremists to those events. It was believed around 20 protestors would show up in Berthoud.

There was very little indication that protesters would disrupt the August 1st BLM rally. An unconfirmed social media post indicated ANTIFA may come to protest. This event ultimately proved smaller than the previous event but did have some clashes with counter-protesters.



Civil unrest tactics used by protesters/agitators in other jurisdictions:

- Use of Lasers to blind officers/pilots and disable cameras
- Frozen water bottles as projectiles
- Pool noodles painted black and fitted with nails
- Signs/banners with hidden weapons (edged) in the framework
 - Umbrellas/shields with sharpened edges/points
- Bear spray used against law enforcement or citizens
- Incendiary / Pyrotechnic devices
 - Firecrackers/smoke bombs – used to make others think the police are using tear gas against them and file false claims
 - Molotov cocktails
 - Improvised Explosive Devices (bottle and other explosive devices)
 - Combustible materials
- Bricks/rocks strategically placed prior to/during an event

Lessons learned from all these events helped guide our decision/planning process for the Back the Blue and BLM rallies.

APPLICABLE STATE/FEDERAL LAWS AND CASE LAW

When we encounter rallies and protests, we typically focus on statutes that may apply and be relevant if we encounter destruction of property or violence. Those statutes include:

- 18-3-206 Menacing
- 18-3-202 Assault in the 1st Degree
- 18-3-203 Assault in the 2nd Degree
- 18-3-204 Assault in the 3rd Degree
- 18-4-103 2nd Degree Arson
- 18-4-104 3rd Degree Arson
- 18-4-501 Criminal Mischief
- 18-4-508 Defacing, destroying, or removing landmarks, monuments, or accessories
- 18-9-102 Inciting riot
- 18-9-103 Arming rioters
- 18-9-104 Engaging in a riot
- 18-9-105 Disobedience of public safety orders under riot conditions
- 18-9-106 Disorderly conduct
- 18-9-107 Obstructing highway or other passageway

Following the passage of the Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity bill (SB20-217) in June, law enforcement agencies around the state have been required to revisit their responses to public protests.

Synopsis of SB20-217 that applies to protests/riots:

The act states that in response to a protest or demonstration, a law enforcement agency and any person acting on behalf of the law enforcement agency shall not:

- Discharge kinetic impact projectiles and all other non-or less-lethal projectiles in a manner that targets the head, pelvis, or back;
- Discharge kinetic impact projectiles indiscriminately into a crowd; or
- Use chemical agents or irritants, including pepper spray and tear gas, prior to issuing an order to disperse in a sufficient manner to ensure the order is heard and repeated if necessary, followed by sufficient time and space to allow compliance with the order.

The act allows a person who has a constitutional right secured by the bill of rights of the Colorado constitution that is infringed upon by a peace officer to bring a civil action for the violation. A plaintiff who prevails in the lawsuit is entitled to reasonable attorney fees, and a defendant in an individual suit is entitled to reasonable attorney fees for defending any frivolous claims. Qualified immunity is not a defense to the civil action. The act requires a political subdivision of the state to indemnify its employees for such a claim; except that if the peace officer's employer determines the officer did not act upon a good faith and reasonable belief that the action was lawful, then the peace officer is personally liable for 5 percent of the judgment or \$25,000, whichever is less, unless the judgment is uncollectible from the officer, then the officer's employer satisfies the whole judgment. A public entity does not have to indemnify a peace officer if the peace officer was convicted of a criminal violation for the conduct from which the claim arises.

One can quite reasonably infer this new law was intended to curtail the involvement of municipal and county peace officers in events like public protests and in several instances, it has resulted in that effect.

In addition to considering state laws, police agencies also must consider relevant state and federal case law that applies to law enforcement response to constitutionally protected speech and protests. Protecting the right to free speech, while also preventing protests from becoming destructive or violent can at times be akin to walking a legal tightrope.

We consult our legal counsel on those matters and routinely review the latest case law as well as pending litigation filed by civil rights organizations to decide the most appropriate course of action. Below are a couple of most relevant cases that we consider.

Cty. of Sacramento v. Lewis, 523 U.S. 833, 846 (1998) [as referenced in LRAD excessive use of force case of *Edrei v. Bratton*, No. 17-2065 (2d Cir 2018)]

“Their duty is to restore and maintain lawful order, while not exacerbating disorder more than necessary to do their jobs. They are supposed to act decisively and to show restraint at the same moment, and their decisions have to be made in haste, under pressure, and frequently without the luxury of a second chance.”

Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

The Court explained that, "As in other Fourth Amendment contexts... the "reasonableness" inquiry in an excessive force case is an objective one: the question is whether the officers' actions are 'objectively reasonable' in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to their underlying intent or motivation." The Court also cautioned, "The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight."

INCIDENT GOALS/OBJECTIVES

1. Respect all rights granted by the United States Constitution
 - 1st Amendment: Freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition the government
 - 2nd Amendment: Right to keep and bear arms
 - 4th Amendment: Prohibits unreasonable search and seizure
 - 14th Amendment: Due process violations
2. Safety of citizens and first responders
3. Keep the peace; maintain law and order
 - Diffuse incidents before they turn physical (dialogue)
 - Prevent and respond to acts of violence and vandalism
4. Keep roadways unobstructed and open for traffic
5. Identify and cite/arrest specific individuals engaged in unlawful behavior when appropriate

COMMAND and CONTROL

Both rallies utilized the Incident Command System (ICS). Prior to both events, a briefing with medical, fire, and law enforcement personnel was conducted. Incident Command for the Back the Blue rally was located at the Berthoud Sub-station but moved further away from Fickel Park for the next rally.

Incident Command (IC) coordinated all resources involved. IC experienced communication issues with the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) team during the Back the Blue Rally. UAS operators or IC had to send a runner from their location to the other to exchange information. At times, IC would not answer their radio from field units (bike, posse, surveillance) as they were in the process of moving in the building and not receiving. This led to a delay in transferring pertinent information to designated personnel. This is a problem with 800MHz radios transmitting/receiving within the building, and the radio issue is being addressed.

We also experienced issues with IC communicating with units in the field. The Bike and Posse units had a very hard time hearing radio updates due to the yelling/chanting of the rally around them and IC had difficulty understanding what was being relayed to them for the same reasons. We have not found that this lack of communication caused any harm or negatively impacted the overall mission; it does highlight a need for communication sets that allow for noise cancelling transmission and receiving capability.



RALLIES

Ryan Armagost, a former LCSO deputy and resident of the Town of Berthoud, organized a Back the Blue Rally to begin at 10:00 am on July 26, 2020. He reserved the park for private use through the town's normal procedure. The rally was promoted through social media as a peaceful event that was open to everyone to show their support of local law enforcement. Rally supporters were requested to meet at the park and line the street holding flags or signs in support of law enforcement. The event attracted the attention of self-identified ANTIFA groups who sent out requests to disrupt the rally with plans to meet at Turner Middle School at 9:00 am, -march to Fickel Park and occupy the park ahead of the scheduled event. To assure the peace and safety of the community, the LCSO monitored publicly available information on the event.

We initially planned to staff the event with the deputies assigned to Berthoud under the direction of Sgt. Anderson. However, it appeared the event was going to be larger than originally thought, and we understood there would likely be others arriving with opposing viewpoints, we chose to staff the event with additional resources than would normally be on duty in the Town of Berthoud. We requested assistance from Colorado State University (CSU) Police Department and our Reserve Deputy cadre to form a Bicycle Response Team to assist with crowd control/traffic issues/law enforcement. We activated the Sheriff's Posse to also help with crowd control. The Sheriff's Office Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) team was requested to help with overall situational awareness concerns. It should be noted contingency plans for large disturbances/riots and mass arrests were in place.

We also coordinated with Berthoud Fire and Thompson Valley EMS for emergency medical issues that may arise during this event. Thompson Valley School District representatives were consulted since the protesters were planning on meeting in a school parking lot. The school district placed barricades and cones to close most of their property entrances and provided LCSO access to their security cameras.

On the day of the Back the Blue event (072620), Back the Blue Rally supporters began showing up in town and at the park as early as 8:00 am. They could be seen lining the street (Mountain Avenue) with flags and signs. By 9:30 there was easily 200-300 participants in and around the park. Surveillance units reported a small group of protesters (between 20-30), wearing all black with face coverings and helmets, consistent with other appearances and behaviors of ANTIFA demonstrators, showing up at Turner Middle School.

At approximately 9:45 am, a group of rally goers left the park and went to Turner Middle School. When the protesters saw the rally-goers arrive at the school, they began to march towards the direction of the rally. They proceeded south down the alleyway between 8th Street and 9th Street, and eventually went eastbound on Mountain Avenue.



The bike unit, in combination with the Posse, was able to create a line between the protesters and the rally-goers at the intersection of 7th Street and Mountain Avenue. The bike team and Posse had to create a hard wall between the two groups, as numerous people from the rally-goers side were making statements to the protesters to the effect that if the cops were not there, they would "beat their ass."

To maintain public safety of all present, the bike team began to push back the rally-goers, some of which had to be forcibly pushed back with a bicycle being used as a barrier. When some space was made, the Posse entered and separated the two crowds further. The bike team gave explicit instructions to the rally-goers to return to the Fickle Park venue, which was reserved for the event, and attempted to create a space for the protestors to allow them to continue their protest along the sidewalk of 7th Street, north of Mountain Avenue.

As space was being made for them, the protestors started to retreat westbound on Mountain Avenue towards the school, at which point the bike team began to fall back, attempting to keep a separation between the rally goers and the protestors. It was reported a protestor began to smack one of the Posse horses with an umbrella. A rally goer took the umbrella away and ripped it up. The broken frame of the umbrella was then thrown on the ground. The deputy on the horse didn't think the horse was injured and was not able to identify the person that hit his horse with the umbrella.

Once back on the school grounds, approximately 15 protestors remained gathered in a small circle at the front doors of Turner Middle School. The bike team encircled the protestors for their safety, as numerous rally goers continued to make general threats against them. Deputies could hear a taser being arched but could not readily identify the specific individual. While at Turner Middle School, just before the protestors stated they were going to leave, a deputy found a broken umbrella on the ground. It was collected and later disposed of.

Some of the protestors informed deputies they wanted to get back to their cars and leave the area. The bike team escorted the protestors to Turner Avenue and 7th Street, where several individuals got into their car and left the area. Additional protestors were identified and escorted to their vehicles around the area. After 11:00 (or so) most of the protestors had left the area and the area was returned to mostly peaceful status. There were isolated

incidents of arguments between people, which the bike team responded to and took necessary action or couldn't find what was reported. Throughout the rally and disturbances, several people made comments to deputies that they were assaulted; however, nobody made an official report to law enforcement and none of the parties have been identified.

A deputy received word from one of the rally-goers that they had seen several protestors placing rocks in planters along Mountain Avenue. Believing these items were being staged for a possible weapon, the bike and foot patrols responded and searched the planters in the area of Mountain Avenue. Eventually, we contacted three parties from the rally that stated they located approximately one dozen rocks which were painted black with various messages such as "Defund the Police" and "Black Lives Matter." The bike team collected the rocks and removed them from the area.

Surveillance units reported seeing what they believed was counter-surveillance by individuals they believed were associated with the protest (ANTIFA) group. They also followed up on reports that protesters were re-organizing outside of town and calling for additional protesters to respond.

On July 30, the Sheriff's Office was advised that 13-year-old Faith Solter was organizing a "Black Lives Matter" (BLM) Rally for the Town of Berthoud to occur on Saturday August 1, 2020 beginning at 2:00 pm at Fickel Park. This event was published on social media and was to be a peaceful support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Efforts were made to identify the number of participants expected at the rally and any planned counter protests. Based on available information, it was anticipated this event would not be as largely attended as the Back the Blue rally.

We again requested assistance from CSU Police Department and our Reserve Deputy cadre to form the Bike Response Team to assist with crowd control/traffic issues/law enforcement. It should be noted contingency plans for medical emergencies, large disturbances/riots and mass arrests were in place.



The first reports of people gathering in the park or nearby occurred about a half hour prior to the scheduled start time. Reports from deputies observing in the area indicated that numerous people were gathering around the neighborhoods and walking towards the park, including many parties with signs, flags, and banners. Additionally, many deputies noted several people were walking towards the park openly carrying sidearms, batons, and knives.

The majority of the BLM rally took place in the southwest corner of Fickel Park. Additionally, another group of people comprised of rally supporters and protestors congregated on the south side of the intersection of 7th & Mountain Avenue. Unlike the previous Back the Blue rally, there was no specific group identified as protesting the BLM rally. They were a mix of Back the Blue supporters, Trump supporters, motorcyclists, and people just there to protest BLM.

Deputies made every effort to stay out of the protest groups and not interfere with 1st Amendment activities as the focus was public safety, not a show of force. BLM supporters led chants of "Black Lives Matter!" and recited the names of people killed by police. Deputies spent most of the event keeping people off of the roadways as to not obstruct traffic. Throughout the event, bike patrol deputies rode around reminding everyone to stay out of the roadway and keep on the grass or sidewalks. For the most part, everyone complied with the instructions to stay out of the roadway and generally only encroached into the shoulder of the road.

Several heated arguments and flag waving incidents took place throughout the event, which were observed by deputies, but did not escalate to requiring law enforcement intervention. As arguments would become heated, deputies would move closer to area and the parties would separate and move on. At that point, deputies would back off and resume observing their area. Deputies stated they did not see any weapons brandished towards any other person present and all weapons stayed holstered. At approximately 4:15 pm, nearly all parties left the park and surrounding areas of Mountain Avenue.

Throughout the event, several parties came up to deputies and stated that they were being harassed, at which point they were given instructions to speak with a deputy later as the event wound down. After the event had concluded, all deputies stated they had not been contacted by anyone to make a formal report of harassment or other criminal occurrence. Any reports taken after the fact would be investigated per normal policy and procedures. No injuries or damage was reported as a direct result of this rally (there was a bike accident we responded to, but the male refused all help and rode away). This rally was significantly smaller than the first one; about 100-200 people at the event's peak with protesters making up the majority.

During both rally's, deputies involved in direct contact with citizens had their Body Worn Camera's activated.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

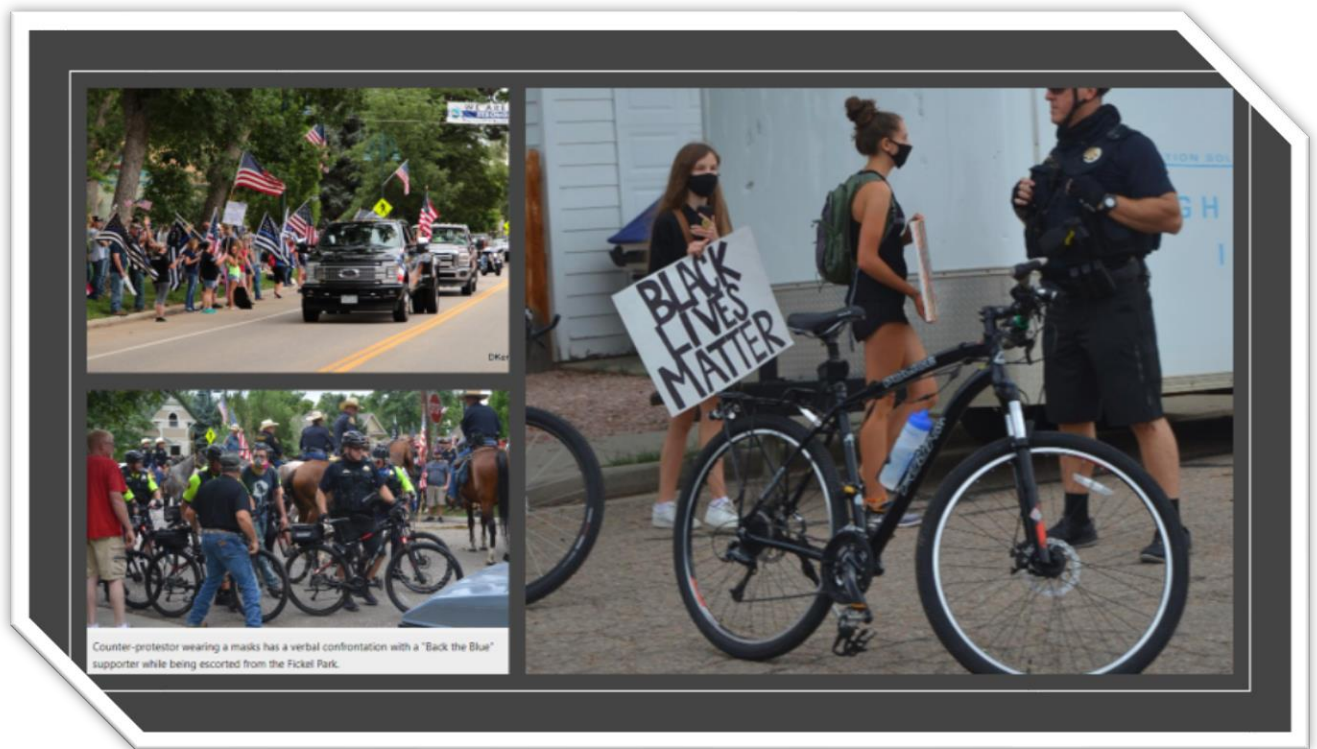
Due to the specific intelligence we had for the Back the Blue Rally, contingency plans and resources to deploy a Mobile Field Force (riot control) were on hand. We were also prepared to open a mass arrest / mobile booking center to better facilitate public safety should a large-scale disturbance or riot develop. Several key pieces of equipment, including a Long-Range Acoustical Device (LRAD), were staged in the area.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK / MEDIA

- ✓ After the BLM Rally Cpl. Roth and Sgt. Badberg walked through Fickel Park but could not find any damages to the park or any nearby businesses in the area. As they were walking around, numerous subjects from both sides of the rally stopped to thank both of them for their service and allowing them time to voice their opinions. The Loveland Reporter Herald wrote, "Some organizers were concerned about safety at the event, but physical violence did not break out."
- ✓ Sgt. Anderson was asked by Trustee Jeff Hindman to join a Facebook group "Berthoud United for Equality" so he could see what the Black Lives Matter folks had to say about the rally. He did go on and requested to join this group with full disclosure who he was. He was accepted and allowed to participate. He wrote that he was there to listen to what they had to say and was not there to use anything against them and received several responses welcoming him. Equally he received private messages of hate toward law enforcement. One said, "all pigs should die." He did not let this deter him from wanting to listen to the others. After a couple days he found he had been removed from the group.
On August 11, he met with Laurie Hindman (wife of Trustee Hindman), Faith Solter (13 year-old girl who organized the rally), and another person. Lt. Loberg and Cpl. Roth joined him. Laurie started off by telling us she was the one that kicked Sgt. Anderson out of their Facebook group. She said they did not want him to know what they were doing or talking about. They asked several questions and we tried to answer them to our best ability. We were asked several times why we allowed the

people to carry their guns, which were open carry. Sgt. Anderson explained the 2nd Amendment to them, but they still thought we should have confiscated all the guns. Of course, at the end they cordially decided to agree to disagree.

- ✓ A search of the internet discovered it is difficult to find any negative news from the local, regional, or national media (local papers, ABC, CBS, NBC, etc) regarding our response to the events. On the contrary, most are neutral or supportive of our effort (Google search: Berthoud Back the Blue & Berthoud Black Lives Matter).



FINDINGS

As with any critical incident, there may be lessons to be learned from the incident. Overall, the decisive action by the bicycle response team and posse, prevented a major disturbance.

Assaults ~~R~~eported

- No assaults or crimes have been reported to Larimer County Sheriff's Office

Damage Reported

Back the Blue Rally

- A sign/banner was ripped away from ANTIFA and left in the street during the Back the Blue rally. The potential victim/owner has not contacted LCSO to investigate that damage.
- A protester used an umbrella to hit one of the Posse horses. It did not cause any injuries to the horse, but the umbrella was taken away and destroyed by an unknown protester. The owner has not contacted LCSO to investigate that damage.
- During crowd control, a horse stepped on the front wheel of one of the patrol bikes and damaged the front wheel. No other damage has been reported to us.
- There was mention of a resident that had some branches/shrubs were damaged by unknown persons. No additional information has been presented.

Black Lives Matter Rally

- No damages reported by participants, neighbors, or area businesses.

Issues of Concern Addressed

- Press release / Social Media: We would like to explore better options with getting news out to the public regarding these incidents (what to expect, who could be impacted, expected behaviors, etc). LCSO and Town of Berthoud administration should work together on this to provide a unified voice/expectation.
- During the Back the Blue Rally, we found we should have had a "Forward" or field supervisor that could have been assisting coordinating the Bike, Posse, and Patrol Units that were in the field. Our designated Team Leaders were on bikes and not able to view a bigger picture of what was going on around them. This supervisor could have also been in a vehicle equipped with a Public Address (PA) system that could have made announcements for all to hear, instead of just shouting in the crowd. We had access to our Long-Range Acoustical Device (LRAD); however due to

the possible legal implications of using it (use of force) and the crowd was moving, we didn't feel it was necessary at the time.

- As an agency (LCSO), we do not have direct access to barricades for closing roads if the needs arise and we would have had to call a streets department person in for Berthoud (after-hours/weekend). We will consider having pre-staged barricades that we can quickly access for future events.
- Communications
 - Issues inside the Town Hall are being explored by county communication technicians. Considerations of a radio booster/repeater for the mobile packs or a dedicated base station have been suggested.
 - Individual communication sets for loud environments are low priority and can be investigated when budgetary restraints allow.

Positive Accomplishments

Injuries Reported

1. There were no injuries to rally or protest persons nor were there any injuries to Deputies, Officers, or horses.

Use of Force was Reasonable and Necessary

1. The only force that was used was that of using the bicycles and horses to physically separate/control the crowd when they attempted to fight each other.
2. No chemical munitions (O.C., Pepperball, or tear gas) was deployed.
3. No impact tools were utilized (baton, ASP, 40mm)
4. No Taser Conducted Electrical Weapons were utilized

Civil Unrest/violence did not occur

During both events, the Bicycle Unit and/Posse successfully managed the crowd and kept the peace. Our close observation and quick response to potential acts of violence kept everyone safe and their individual rights respected. In contrast, on August 8th, A Back the Blue rally occurred in Fort Collins in which the police had minimal initial presence and a brawl between 10-15 people broke out resulting in several arrests and negative press for the city.