

MEMORANDUM

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Date: February 25, 2003

To: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Internal Affairs Unit

Subject: Presidential Visit - Arrests

An administrative review has been completed in reference to the presidential protest, which took place on January 29, 2003.

Officers made arrests of thirteen subjects, only after closely monitoring their physical and verbal actions during the protest. In each case that force was used, a Use of Force Report was completed and is included in this packet. Officers who made arrests complied with Departmental policy regarding the use of force.

Many of the events that took place on January 29 were caught on videotape. The videotapes include in-car cameras, IBO video, and a forty-minute video recorded by a student protester. Up to this point, we have been unable to obtain tapes from the media. The tapes have been thoroughly reviewed. Officers are shown in several instances standing calmly while being verbally challenged by the protesters. The protesters are heard using profanity and encouraging others to act in an uncooperative manner. Tapes show some of the protesters acting aggressively and in defiance of police direction, with no regard to the safety of the non-protesting citizens, vehicular traffic, or the President of the United States.

Several statements were taken from people who were non-involved parties in this incident. One witness complained about having to stop in his vehicle and being surrounded by protesters while on North Division Avenue. The witness said he heard and felt a loud thud on the passenger side of his vehicle, as if an object struck his truck. The witness then saw five to six protesters writing with their fingers on the side of his vehicle. Another witness heard protesters screaming and yelling profanity at the police. That same witness described the police action as "fair and peaceful." Other witnesses said they saw the police attempting to get the people on the sidewalk. One witness said he saw one or more demonstrators throw an object at the police. By independent witness accounts, officers conducted themselves in a professional manner.

There was some question as to whether or not a permit had been obtained by the protesters. [REDACTED] has confirmed that no permit was obtained for anywhere in downtown Grand

Rapids for January 29, 2003. Additionally, Jeff Smith has not applied for any type of permit in the last two years.

The Michigan Independent Media Center served as a conduit on the Internet for comments from those who participated in the march. Protesters commented about taking control of the streets and ignoring police directives.

Included in this notebook are all police reports and use of force reports submitted by the officers who were assigned to the protest. There is an arrest log, copies of jail photos, and charge sheets for each person arrested. I have also included an e-mail from [REDACTED] reference his office not receiving a request for a permit for January 29, 2003. Also included are copies of e-mails you received, as well as copies of Grand Rapids Press articles, and numerous Internet articles from the Michigan Independent Media Center reference the protest. Everything in this notebook, along with the videotapes earlier described, was used in reviewing the actions of the Grand Rapids Police Department.

A careful review of all police reports, videotapes, and interviews conducted in this matter supports the actions of the Grand Rapids Police Department during the presidential protest.