

# Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

## Office of Public Information

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Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Protests Turned Violent, Leading to 80 Arrests and 12 LVMPD Officers Injured

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department officers arrested 80 protesters Friday after peaceful demonstrations turned violent on the Las Vegas Strip, injuring 12 police officers and damaging property.

The LVMPD reiterated that police are there to ensure that citizens can exercise their First Amendment rights, but they will arrest people for acts of violence and vandalism.

“The officers and everyone at the LVMPD sees this situation with great empathy. While we understand people are hurting, we are here to see that more people aren’t hurt in clashes,” said LVMPD Sheriff Joe Lombardo. “It does not serve the memory of a man to destroy, loot, and hurt others in his honor. It does honor him by standing up for what is right. And in that case, the LVMPD will stand with its citizens as they exercise their freedom to speak out.”

Friday’s demonstration began peacefully, as 200 to 300 protesters gathered by the Miracle Mile shops near Las Vegas and Tropicana boulevards to protest the death of George Floyd who was killed by a Minneapolis police officer. The protest began to wind down after several hours until a group of agitators arrived to ratchet up tensions. That is when officers ordered the crowd to disperse. Dispersal orders are given when a crowd has become unruly or unsafe for citizens. It is meant to protect people from harm. Officers issued several orders for the crowd to disperse. Citizens who refused to comply with those orders were arrested.

Aggressors threw rocks at police, hitting and injuring several LVMPD officers and left behind damaged property that was tagged. Property damage in small pockets throughout the Strip corridor appears to have occurred as small groups splintered off from the large crowd.

As police prepare for another round of possible protests on Saturday, they ask members of the public to keep demonstrations peaceful and lawful.

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[www.LVMPD.com](http://www.LVMPD.com) or [www.ProtectTheCity.com](http://www.ProtectTheCity.com)

