

## **Appendix A**

### **Witness A**

#### **November 28, 2014**

On Friday November 28th, the protests had started about 1:00 p.m. The police had been relatively hands-off until we had planned to go through the bus tunnel to get into Pacific Place through Nordstrom's. By the time we had gotten into the bus tunnel, there were only about 20 of us that had made it through until police had closed the wire gate. We then attempted to go out the other side, as it was clear we would not be let out the Westlake entrance. We were met by roughly a dozen officers who began herding us back toward the gate that closed. We told the officers that we had been instructed by the police at the entrance that we must go out another way, but the officers would not let us pass. We asked if we were being arrested or detained, because there was no other way for us to get out of the bus tunnel. Eventually officers let us out through the east exit of Westlake Station.

The protests then went up to Capitol Hill with bike police flanking us on both sides. At this point there were roughly 250-300 protesters. After we had a speak-out at the Pike and 10th area, we all decided to return to downtown and continue the protest around the tree lighting. As soon as we had hit the Pike/Boren intersection, we were met with a row of bike officers blocking the street with a row of riot police with shields, batons, and masks. They had completely blocked off the street and would not let us pass. All protesters had been completely peaceful all day.

I was not close to the front at this time and don't know if they had been giving a reason for us not being able to pass. At that time, I assumed that they did not want us to go on to I-5, and we began moving through the plaza/dog park between Pike and Pine to get to Pine and Boren to return downtown. At Pine and Boren they redeployed officers, again with a row of bike police and riot police directly behind them. We asked why we could not pass, and received no answer. The officers had their pepper spray canisters out of their holsters, so protesters with umbrellas moved to the front in order to protect the rest of us. Police began pushing and shoving us back with their bikes and began spraying pepper spray and threw at least two concussion grenades into the crowd. The crowd began to disperse at this time, and it was clear that the officers would not let us return to downtown. We attempted to move to the sidewalk but the way was still blocked. At that time we all began to break into small groups to get back downtown.

#### **December 1, 2014**

On the night of 12/1, about 150-200 protesters gathered in front of Westlake Mall. No protesters attempted to enter the mall, we simply had a speak-out in front of it. After a speak-out we took to the streets and headed north on 4th Ave and turned onto Olive. We all then turned around because there were riot police and bike police following us closely and we feared for the protesters in the back of the march. We wanted to head back downtown, but by that time there were a full row of riot police blocking the way. We chanted "Let us through"

and they would not. The protest remained entirely peaceful and we started to crowd onto the sidewalk and asked if they would not let us through on the street, why they would block the sidewalk. Each time we asked why we could not return in the direction of our choosing there was no answer or they would state, "You can go east." No reason was given. We then marched to the intersection of Olive and 8th. We determined that we wanted to go downtown, but the police were behind us and on both the north and south sides of the protest and would not let us turn north or south. At that point we attempted to continue up Olive and break into smaller groups in order to turn off to go downtown.

The police blocked every intersection that would let anyone, even small groups turn north or south. I specifically asked an officer why I was not being allowed to pass and he remained silent. His name badge was covered, as most of theirs were by the riot gear. I asked if I was under arrest or being detained. He said no. I told him my bus was downtown and I wanted to return home and I needed to pass. He would not let me through. We continued up the hill as police broke us into smaller and smaller groups. There were riot police jumping out of vans at almost every intersection on Capitol Hill in full riot gear. It was incredibly intimidating and the only thing we were trying to do was move freely and peaceably about public space. Police officers were blocking off every alley and side street that could take us north or south. Eventually we had split up into enough groups that we could disperse and get back downtown.

## **Appendix B**

### **Witness B**

**November 28, 2014**

On the night of November 28, 2014, I participated in the protest in Seattle after the Darren Wilson grand jury announcement. On or around 8:30pm, I joined the protest in Capitol Hill and continued with the crowd into the Central District. I left the protest when it got to 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave and Jackson St at around 9:45pm. [Redacted] picked me up in her car. I had heard that the protesters were going to try to get onto the freeway, so [redacted] and I decided to observe and get ahead of the protest in her car. We parked near the James Street onramp and walked down to watch the protesters attempt to get on I-5. The protesters were walking under the overpass where the police were waiting with their bicycles in front of them.

The police were roughly 50 feet onto the onramp and did not stop the protesters at the intersection. I took out my cell phone and started to take video. When protesters could go no further onto the onramp due to the barrier of the police, the protesters did not leave. Police shouted at the protesters to move back and pushed with their bikes to force people backward. When the protesters did not move far, police began shoving their bikes onto the crowd and spraying pepper spray. Some people started to move back and some did not. Immediately after, there was what looked and sounded like an explosion in the crowd. The sound was so loud that

my ears hurt and I was a short distance away from the protest standing behind a fence. From how close the explosion was to the police and how they seemed to respond by shoving their bikes more forcefully, I assumed that one of the protesters had thrown it. When the second one went off, I realized that the explosions were actually flash bang grenades coming from the police.

There were five flash bang grenades total that were thrown or shot directly into the crowd. The third or fourth flash bang grenade hit a protester in the midsection as they were starting to turn sideways. As the crowd started to move backward and into the intersection, [redacted] and I went to buy milk for the protesters that had been pepper sprayed so they could use it on their eyes and try to counteract the effects of the spray. By the time we returned, some of the protesters that had been pepper sprayed had either been helped by the street medics or had left. [Redacted] and I stayed with one woman that had been sprayed and [redacted] helped to pour milk into her eyes. We left around 11pm.

## **Appendix C**

### **Witness C**

**November 28, 2014**

At about 9:30PM I got word from my partner, [redacted] about the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case and that she was in a march in central Seattle. I decided to go and be a legal observer. I do not yet have anything to identify me as such, but I planned to watch the protest from outside of it and film if needed.

I took my car to where the protest at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson (at approximately 9:50) and picked up [redacted]. She had already texted me that there was some discussion within the group that some people were going to try and get on the freeway and she didn't want to do that. We drove a little ahead of where I thought they might get on, which was at 7<sup>th</sup> and James. We parked the car on 8<sup>th</sup>, between James and Cherry, just before the marchers made it to 8<sup>th</sup> and James. We got out and walked on the sidewalk next to them down to 7<sup>th</sup> and James.

The protestors began to walk up the onramp to I-5 from James. There were approximately 100 protesters that attempted this. There were already police and a police line blocking them. As protestors began to walk up to police, I walked alongside protestors but along 7<sup>th</sup> at a distance of about 50-70 feet and stood on a piling next to a fence alongside the freeway and took some short film clips of the protestors. There was a brief standoff with protestors shouting at police. The standoff lasted maybe 5 minutes before the police began spraying pepper spray liberally at

the protestors. There was enough pepper spray to cause me to cough a couple of times. But things were relatively calm with standoff between the groups.

As I was looking in the general direction of the gathered protestors and police a loud explosion occurred. I thought it was a bomb. I thought a protestor had set off a small handmade explosive to make noise and create a violent reaction from the police. So I looked right to where the noise occurred and saw smoke coming up. It was just in front of the police at the front of the protestors. A handful of protestors scattered. But then the police didn't react. I began filming, still not knowing what had happened. The police began pushing people with their bikes and more explosions occurred. And I realized then that the explosions were actually flash bang grenades, Up until then I had no idea how loud they were as I had only seen them on film. The third one really hurt my ears, causing me to yowl in pain which is captured on the clip, but I didn't want to cover my ears because I wanted to keep filming what was happening. I was in shock and disbelief because I saw the next grenade going into the crowd as I filmed. After the fourth one went off my iphone stopped filming because it ran out of room. I saw the fifth grenade go right into the crowd as well.

I was completely in shock. I didn't know that Seattle Police had flash bang grenades or that they would launch them at people. Especially because I already knew they could cause third degree burns.

As [redacted] and I walked away I heard at least one more go off, it sounded like it was further up the onramp.

I have been involved in various types of First Amendment activities since 1991 and I have never been so shaken by police action I have witnessed firsthand.

As we started to walk to the car we found a number of people suffering the effects of having been sprayed with pepper-spray at close range. [Redacted] and I went to the nearest gas station and got milk and poured it in one person's eyes and tended to her as her eyes were swollen shut, she was separated from her friends and literally could not see. She was eventually able to open her eyes after about 15 minutes with us, however, others had been tending to her before we got there.

#### Appendix D

#### Witness D

I have attended 5 [Black Lives Matter] protests so far and have seen a few instances of intimidation, hemming, herding, and violence used against protestors. Last night's arrest [December 13] of a 16 year old girl was particularly concerning. They took her down hard on pavement after leaving \*their\* lineup to get her. Additionally, police continually told protestors

we were not allowed up certain streets or marching in a particular direction. When we arrived last night, the police probably outnumbered protesters 2:1 for only about 100 people peacefully assembling. I have never seen a more ridiculous display of police presence in my life, and I've attended countless protests. I've attached photos of that presence at 5th and Pike last night.

I also attended the march on Saturday and was part of the splinter march after the march organized by Garfield students. Police were carrying rubber bullets and had their tear gas in hand. They also outnumbered protesters probably 2:1. I saw tactics used to split up the protest, as well as surrounding protesters with batons, rubber bullet guns, and tear gas canisters. To say this was intimidating would be an understatement. It is so easy to understand the anger and unrest among protesters after seeing how many police were there, how many police vans, how many supplies they had, and how they were speaking to protesters.

I have been an organizer with various environmental movements for the past 4 years, and these protests have seen the most outrageous displays of police presence I've ever seen.

## **Appendix E**

### **Witness E**

**December 1, 2014**

I am a 37 year old woman, and I attended protests on December 1 and December 13 of 2014.

On December 1, I arrived at the protest around 6:35, while it was still at Westlake. I had heard that police had preemptively Westlake Mall. There were about 100-150 protestors and a lot of chanting going on. The police were closer to Westlake building than to street.

Eventually, about 20 minutes later, there was a "mic check" and decision to march. We got into intersection of 3rd and Pine, then started marching up pine (towards capitol hill). It was pretty normal up until Pine and 7th, where approx. 15-20 cops in riot gear (with police vans behind them) blocked off Pine westbound in a way that prevented people from going back towards Westlake. They were blocking off intersections on three sides to force the march up to Capitol Hill. Took a while for the crowd to realize it was being directed. People started yelling not to be alone, be with one other person, don't let them pick you off. Fear that police were waiting to pick people off one by one for arrest.

It felt like police were really solid and wouldn't let people through. Protestors asked to get through but police indicated that they could not. Bike cops wouldn't always be able to close off a sidewalk in time, people would try and go through, then police would speed up, get in their way and not let them go through.

I was less conscious of the march route because police were directing. We switched over to Olive Way at some point and cops had blocked off the entrance to highway. Just before freeway entrance on Olive, two protestors went up to line of cops and indicated they wanted to leave, and the cops said they couldn't. The police were stony-faced and didn't really say much else. A couple blocks later, cops didn't have a sidewalk blocked completely, people were trying to get through (a couple may have made it). People were asking why can't we get through; cop just kept yelling "get back!" very aggressively; protestors were at least 5-10 feet away and weren't acting aggressively except yelling "why can't we get through."

I felt very nervous, I thought the cops were going to escalate things.

At one point, 2 protestors were yelling at cops and there was another protestor (older black man) standing about 15 feet away from protestors with hands down/to the side. Four cops on bikes rode up really fast to reinforce cops. It was unclear what was going to happen, but was very aggressive. The guy was just standing there -- he didn't move in the way but didn't move out of the way. The cops could have slowed down, and one yelled (maybe "Get out of the way"). The guy didn't move, so one cop in the middle of the group rides up to him, gets off the bike, grabs the guy, and throws him out of the way. He wasn't physically hurt (didn't fall), but angry.

After that, we start marching again. We took a right onto Melrose and people decided to disperse and try and get back downtown. The crowd decreased pretty substantially as people were trying to get back downtown. We headed south on Melrose and thought we had escaped the cops.

We tried to head back west on Pike or Pine, but cops were blocking off the entire street. They were blocking sidewalks and streets so that march couldn't move forwards. In the middle of the block, cops moved in ahead and behind so there was nowhere to go. I was trying to figure out what the hell they were doing and what we were going to do. A lot of people had left, so there were only about 30 people left. Probably only blocked on both sides for about 5 minutes. I asked an officer how to get home, no response, another protestor said that the cops said to go around; they had opened up a small gap in the east side and so I left.

### **December 13, 2014**

I also participated in another march on December 13. I walked across [University of Washington] campus to get to Red Square and arrived approx. 11:30 for a demonstration that was supposed to start at 11:00. It hadn't started yet, so we made a sign, and there were some speeches (approx.. half hour). The organizers said we were going to up 23rd to meet Garfield march starting at 1.

We started marching through campus at first and then went to Burke-Gilman Trail, over an overpass to 25th. On campus, there were approx. 5 campus cops. At B-G trail, 7-8 bike cops. At 25th, approx. 30 cops. Approx. 200 protestors. We blocked off 25th in a square. We stood there and chanted for a while, people were honking at us. We then started heading towards the Montlake Bridge (south on 25th). Then, when we got to the intersection of 25th/Montlake and Pacific. We were stopped by a line of police (approx.. 20). I didn't see any riot gear besides one tear gas canister. They stopped us before the intersection and there was another line of bike cops blocking off the bridge. There were two lines of cops between us and where we wanted to go. The organizers said that SPD told us we could go where we wanted and they would cooperate, but they stopped us at the intersection. We asked why we couldn't proceed and they said nothing, but they also wouldn't move. Organizer said that police said protestors couldn't go through (some communication between organizer and police).

We were stopped at intersection of Montlake and Pacific for about 15-20 minutes. One organizer said that the police told him protest was blocking access to hospital and we couldn't do that anymore. But, that was because cops had blocked off bridge to keep march from proceeding to 23rd. Then, they opened up a little bit more of path to pacific and so we went down pacific so as not to block the hospital.

So then we were on right side of Pacific headed towards 15th (heading West); still approx. 200 protestors and enough cops still that there was not really space between cops for the entire length of the march. While we're walking down Pacific, we see three vans with approx. 8 cops in each of them. That raised tensions a little bit. They ended up north of us waiting for us, but not sure. So we turned right (North) on 15th. We were still chanting. Wherever we turned, it was because the cops made us (blocking off streets so that we had to turn). Nothing much happened for a while, except for that we couldn't go where we wanted to go. Went down 15th, then 43rd, die in on 43rd (maybe at the Ave); chanted for a while. Then, we were kind of directed (via cops blocking routes) back to 15th (maybe at 43rd?); they tried to block us off from getting to 45th, had it blocked sidewalk to sidewalk, so went around them on the lawn. They weren't aggressive about it, maybe because it was daylight. Seems like lower tensions in daytime as opposed to night time.

At some point, we ended up at 15th and 45<sup>th</sup> and people were nervous about being near cops after arrest. We had another die in, and police blocked us off so we couldn't north or west. A white guy in his late 30s walked through die-in yelling and being hostile, shoved the cop bikes and got through the bike line. They didn't do anything about it, didn't yell, anything. Two other bystanders asked to be let through and were let through. After that, we doubled back and went back on campus, and then we dispersed at Red Square; ended around 2:45-2:50.

There was an open mic because it was started; theoretically we could have gone to Pacific but we wanted to go up 23rd. A white guy grabbed the microphone and started saying some stuff about streets belonging to all of us. An older black cop started muttering stuff like "the street belongs to you, you don't have any problem; this country was built on our blood." Later on this same cop (approx.. 1 hr later), during a die-in, when a bystander starts yelling at police to break it up, the same older black cop said "it's their right to demonstrate, they can do this." He was agitated

I was going to support all of the people of color who keep on getting massacred by police. I was going for a protest. Especially on December 1, I was super anxious -- as soon as the riot gear cops came, I was really nervous for the march. I felt like the police were trying to get us to do something so that they could be aggressive against us. I was shaking from adrenaline. It was very stressful. They were sitting there protecting businesses, but it's not like the SPD was free and clear from the murder of people of color. If there's any desire to change the SPD, protecting businesses at the expense of protestors is the wrong way to do it.

On the 13th, it felt less aggressive. I was still annoyed and ticked off by the arrest. I wasn't as anxious and not completely flooded with adrenaline, but I still know the police don't work for us.

## **Appendix F**

### **Witness F**

**November 28, 2014**

I am a 25 year old woman, and I attended the Black Lives Matter march on November 28, 2014. The protest started at 1:00, I was very punctual. A small crowd gathered in the rain in the park near the fountain. I couldn't hear anybody because Christmas music was playing at an unusually high volume.

We marched downtown east (?) on Pine, around the block. Police were observing, people were walking in the streets, blocking traffic. At 6th and Pike we did some chanting and blocking intersection. There were approximately 300 people downtown. We went to Westlake, chanted, went up to top floor, and then left Westlake. As we were passing by bus tunnel (on the way to Pacific Place), people tried to get in bus tunnel but police were closing the gate to keep people out. After about 10 minutes we went to Pacific Place. We marched and chanting, went up escalators and were on top floor for quite a while chanting, then we proceeded back down the escalators and out. I noticed chains on the doors on the way back out, but not sure who put them there. I didn't see cops in the mall. Cops were shutting down the bus tunnel; guards were trying to close the doors to Pacific Place (but didn't see). Only confrontations downtown.



After that, about 700 people marched up to Capitol Hill, marching up Pike or Pine in the street (all marching in the street). Then, we sat down in intersection of Pine and Broadway for a while, speeches, moment of silence. Then, went up to the Comet, just kind of present there and chanting. Then organizers were indicating that the crowd should go back to Westlake for the tree lighting ceremony. Approx. 3:00-3:30 that people started going back downtown on Pike.

As we were coming down the hill, the cops had barricaded Pike at the overpass. People were yelling things, then I looked and saw cops with bikes blocking off the street at Boren. Cops were standing side by side with bikes in front of them, creating impermeable barrier, blocking streets and sidewalks (but sidewalks not as barricaded, just cops standing with batons). I was afraid to get too close to the cops on the sidewalk because I thought they would beat me with their batons. It was very clear that if you tried to walk past one they wouldn't let you. It was clear because they were holding batons and looking very menacing. The bike cops weren't letting people through. Facing off with the cops, a few people in the front (organizers) and one kneeling on the ground. Organizers told everyone to link arms and to prepare to be pepper sprayed. Cops with bikes physically blocked the path, one cop especially patting baton in hand and twisting it around, seemed eager to use it in a very threatening way.

People decided to run over to the next intersection, Pine and Boren. Cops were already there and had formed a barricade at Pine as well. I can't remember if there were bikes, but there was a line of police officers (at least), possibly with bikes. They were keeping people from downtown. A few people were trying to push through, but then cops started pepper-spraying people. Crowd moved back and dispersed briefly; we were not as collected of a group. People scattered once pepper-sprayed. Cops threw flash bangs, one exploded on my leg (left a nasty bruise). Crowd had kind of scattered, lots of people screaming. Somebody had the idea of holding up umbrellas to block pepper spray, because people were going to try and get through again. People were holding umbrellas to keep pepper spray out of eyes. As they approached police w/ umbrellas, police would grab the umbrellas and shred the umbrellas (stripping them of fabric/destroying them). Cops were also grabbing people and their clothes. I remember observing a staring contest between cop and protestor for a while. I don't know if cops said anything about being able to go through, it was conduct (physically using bodies and vehicles to obstruct the road in a tight formation and holding batons and pepper spraying people who did try to get through). There were no cars or pedestrians coming through. It seemed to go on for a while, lots of umbrellas destroyed. I was talking to an organizer who suggested people separate into smaller groups to get downtown because cops weren't going to let them downtown. People didn't really do that. Somebody had the idea of trying to go through Freeway park, so we went up hill towards Union and spotted a path between two buildings. There were several hundred people going one by one down pathway that fed out into freeway park; walked through freeway park and came out on university or union (whichever); some people were

jogging along 5th back towards Westlake. We were concerned that the cops were going to get there.

Because we'd all had to go single-file into Freeway Park, in trickling line, by the time we got to downtown we were no longer a solid crowd of people (small groups and individuals trying to get back to Westlake Mall). Me and two other women were in the street, someone yelled the cops were coming and I looked and saw cops on bikes on 5th towards Westlake. I ran out of the street, lots of others got moved onto sidewalks because cops were on bikes heading towards 5th and Pine. I was on the corner of 5th and Pine, and two women with shopping bags were in front of me. A cop rode up onto sidewalk on bike right in front of them and almost hit them/blocked their path. But the cops let them through (two shoppers). When we tried to follow them on sidewalk, we were blocked. More police had arrived at this point (but hadn't formed barricade like on cap hill; some cops w/ bikes but not as tight). My friend got around officer but when I tried to walk through they slammed their bikes together onto my legs as I was trying to go through. I moved back away from them. A lot of other people from Freeway Park had arrived in street. Cops had loose block of bikes and were moving bikes to prevent people from getting through. People were still managing to get through, I eventually did because I think they were distracted. A few arrests happened, then the rest of us eventually formed a loose group and joined crowd outside of Christmas tree.

Once we managed to join crowd of bystanders, cops couldn't really block anybody after that. I stuck around for Christmas tree lighting, people were chanting but ceremony was loud. We went into Westlake, got to top and balcony. Don't recall anybody blocking access to balcony.

I realized just how scary police are because of how aggressive they were being physically (grabbing peoples clothes and pulling them); by their expressions (some smirking and some looking very aggressive; lots of smirking, threatening handling of batons; got a sense of eagerness on their part, especially when we were coming down capitol hill and they were blocking the street; I was terrified of coming near them because they looked so eager to start attacking people.

I went to the protest, which was about the failure of grand jury to indict Darren Wilson for murder of Mike Brown; I wanted to show that business as usual could not continue as long as we have such a system of human rights abuse occurring in this country. Because it was black Friday, intention was to get shoppers to take a moment to engage more politically (as opposed to consumerist activity). I wanted to discourage shopping and put a dent in business' bottom line to make change in society – to get capitalists to get politicians to act.

I felt very scared because they have weapons and lots of them were in riot gear. It was like facing off with people prepared for battle while I have a cardboard sign. They have pepper

spray pointed at my face, they were armed against me. It was very clear whose interests they were there to serve and that was the interest of businesses. They were obviously targeting protestors because downtown there were shoppers whose use of the streets were not being blocked. At capitol hill, they weren't letting anyone through, but downtown they allowed people who looked like shoppers through lines but didn't let me through (even though I wasn't shouting or chanting at that point). I felt really scared of the police; it seemed to me like they wanted to hurt us and they really hated us; like they were really annoyed/pissed off that we would use our bodies to interfere with the flow of capital/traffic.

## **Appendix G**

### **Witness G**

I am a 20 year old man. I attended Black Lives Matter marches on November 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, as well as December 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **November 28, 2014**

Protest met at Westlake at 1 PM/early afternoon. Originally we were just outside Westlake, but everybody flooded into Westlake, chanting (Black lives matter). We went up the escalators, chanted, then left. After that, we headed towards Pacific Place. Some people tried to go into Nordstroms and transit tunnel. Police shoved people away from transit tunnel. The protestors tried to hold gate open but it was closed, maybe trapping people inside. At Nordstroms, security guards kept people from entering Nordstroms. Pepper spray was deployed and then people then went to Pacific Place, chanted similarly to Westlake, went up escalator, circled mall and chanted. Some people may have tried to chain Pacific Place doors shut. After that, everyone left pacific place

We next headed towards Capitol Hill, with protest leader said no more going into businesses because we were losing people. We headed up Pine, marching in street. I estimate a few hundred people. Bike cops were on either side. When we got up to Pine and Broadway there was a small rally, then people sat for 4.5 min moment of silence. We went from Pine to Pike, went to a few businesses to protest, including Comet, about keeping black business owners out of the area. We then headed down Pike towards downtown. When we got to Boren we were stopped by riot police. There was a barricade created by [police] bicycles, with riot masks and bulletproof vests and pepper spray. The protesters called for people with umbrellas to the front to block pepper spray. We then went over to Pine, where we also were blocked by police and created another umbrella line. The police then started taking umbrellas.

At Boren and Pike we tried to go forward and police wouldn't move. People were asking why can't we go through and police said nothing. No one was getting through either direction. At Pine it was a similar situation except police were letting cars through. Police said nothing until they were moving their bikes forward and yelling "get back!". Our ultimate goal was to go back to Westlake to be near tree lighting ceremony. This was around 3:00 PM.

I felt threatened, especially because of complete lack of interaction – police were not saying anything and not responding to requests. Protestors were saying "let us go downtown" but police wouldn't respond. After the bike cops pushed the crowd back, they used a combination flash bang/pepper spray grenades (counted 4) into crowd which included children – there were toddlers & high school students. I didn't hear the cops say anything before the use of pepper spray/flash bangs. I was in the middle of the crowd. There was more pepper spray and flash bangs at Pike and Boren. It probably lasted 10-15 minutes between cops and protestors. We then went east on Boren approx. 3 blocks acting like we were dispersed, took a right, went down staircase, then up into park next to convention center. People were able to get downtown that way. About 5:15 PM I had to leave to go to work, but I saw protestors blocked at 6th and pine.

I was at the demonstration because of racial inequality in U.S. It is not a post-racial society, and as white person it's my duty to support POC in protest. I went to the demonstration to make sure movement is being seen and heard. The Black lives matter movement is a movement towards more accountability for police and towards more awareness of racial inequality.

We lost a lot of people when riot cops showed up, and more as flash grenade/pepper spray used and subsequent dispersal.

#### **December 1, 2014**

The protest started at 5:00 or 6:00, gathered outside Westlake in Westlake park, and then moved towards Westlake mall where police on bikes and riot cops were blocking access. We had a small rally with democratic megaphone emphasizing marginalized voices. I spoke about transgender issues and inequality regarding the police. We went from Westlake to 4th, marching in street one block west, turned right, headed north in that street. We got a couple blocks before realized police barricade immediately behind, with officers using bikes. There were cops on bikes on either side and behind us, when march would stop, officers behind would set up barricades and bike cops would go to next two intersections and create barricades w/bikes. They basically funneled the protest out of downtown, trying to get us to leave the downtown area. At 6th or 7th and Olive, we turned around and tried to go back downtown. Police said they wouldn't let people back through if they were on the streets. The march sat

down on the ground to demonstrate being peaceful and chanting “put down your riot gear we don’t see no riot here.”

After that, we split and went on sidewalks. Police were still refusing to let people through. Me and two friends headed up Olive, cops had blocked off other intersections. It was just three of us walking up sidewalk. We tried to go down side street at Olive and Minor, but police said we couldn’t go through because it was a police barricade, so we went up to Melrose to Pike and then down Pike to 5th and back to Westlake.

After people rejoined at Westlake, we moved into street and had rally until approx..9:30. The police had barricade around Westlake mall.

I felt threatened, felt like I was not being allowed to demonstrate. We probably lost about a third of the people when march had to disperse. There were a few hundred people at beginning.

I believe that solidarity is important with oppressed groups and between oppressed groups. That is part of why I was there.

### **December 3, 2014**

We gathered outside Westlake at 6 PM and rallied for a while using the democratic microphone/megaphone. There were probably couple hundred people. We stood in the intersection of 4th and Pine for a while, and police set up barricade so we couldn’t return to Westlake park or to the mall. The police were letting pedestrians move freely but not protestors. People carrying shopping bags were allowed around, but groups of protestors were not being allowed back. I didn’t hear police say anything about it.

After that, we went to Pine & 3rd, then to Pike & 3rd and had die-in at Pike and 3rd outside Ross. We moved up to 4th and Pike, then up 4th to Pine. Police were on bikes on both sides and behind (similar to 12/1). We headed up 4th towards Seattle Center at approx. 7-7:30. We went most of the way to Seattle Center (3-5 blocks past Army Surplus store) then headed to 1st Ave, and headed back towards Downtown.

I was there with a friend with mild epilepsy. Half of police bikes had flashing lights. I asked police to turn off the strobe, but they refused to turn off strobe for officer safety. I told police about my friend’s medical condition and cop said to go somewhere else.

When I was walking back in a small group with a person with mobility issue, despite lots of space on either side the police started yelling to get out of the way and went through group. One person was hit by one bike, stumbled, and then hit by two other bikes. Also, the police

threatened arrest us for walking in the street, despite the fact that rest of protest was still in street.

## **Appendix H**

### **Witness H**

I attended Black Lives Matter protests on November 24, 25, and 28, and December 4.

#### **November 28, 2014**

I showed up early with a few people, we had a big sound system and played some music. The police told us we had to turn off the music because we were on Westlake property and it was too loud. We were on the sidewalk, but the cops said no, everything is Westlake property and the music was too loud. We knew he was lying, but we just crossed the street across Pine (in front of A&F). We researched it, found out that the sidewalk was not Westlake property and we could play music as long as you can't hear it from 75 feet away. The cop said it had to be turned off, even though we took a tape measure and showed that it couldn't be heard from 75 ft away. At that point a crowd had gathered, people started chanting so we turned the music off. The cop asked us to turn the music back on to drown out the chanting.

About 1:30 the march started. At least one hundred people, likely more, were there -- maybe 200. When we started marching, more people joined. We marched around, then went back to Westlake and entered the mall. Cops tried to keep us out of the mall, but that didn't work. We demonstrated in the mall for maybe 20-30 minutes. After that, we walked out of Westlake. I thought we were going to Pacific Place, but after marching down Pine, the march turned towards transit tunnel. I made it into the tunnel and was trying to get more people in, but people were confused. Then, police and security started using force to keep people out of the tunnel, and people got nervous. Police were shoving people, pepper spray, brought batons out, and tried to pull the fence down. One person was holding up gate, police directly pepper sprayed them. 30 of us were inside, the rest were outside. We were screaming to let us out, the rest of the crowd was too. They told us we had to go around and we got scared because the cops outnumbered us in there. They blocked all the exits, and refused to let us go but were telling us to get out. Finally, the boss told them to let us out and we were escorted out. When I exited, I saw some people blocking 4th and Pine and disrupting the traffic there. The majority of the group went into Pacific Place and were demonstrating there. While I was inside the transit tunnel, [redacted] had been arrested.

We left the intersection and joined the rest of the group in Pacific Place. People were demonstrating going up the escalators and chanting on the top floor. After we left that, we wanted to go into Nordstroms, but we couldn't get in.

When we were all back out on the street, some people wanted to go to Pike Place, but there was no reason for us to go to Pike Place. So we went to Capitol Hill at approximately 2:30-2:45. Some people didn't want to go to Capitol Hill because if we didn't get back in time the police would try to keep us out of downtown. Police weren't really bothering us at that point, not even on the way up to Capitol Hill. We took Pine to Broadway, we blocked that intersection. We did a die-in and speak-outs. At that point, an old man was trying to get through the intersection and almost hit people. People were getting mad, but he was just trying to leave. Police helped calm that situation down. I got up and let the crowd know about certain businesses in Capitol Hill that had been conspiring with police to keep East Africans out because they were blamed for recent violence. So we all started marching and we targeted Comet Tavern, Lost Lake, Café Vita and Neumos.

We got to those business and dispersed a bit, we were chanting and some people were telling people why and chanting. We finished around 3:30-3:45, gathered the group back up and started marching downtown on Pike.

When we arrived at the Pike and Boren area, the police were in line. They were standing with bikes in front of them, behind them were police vehicles and more police with riot sticks. We were chanting to try and get through. People were screaming their legal rights about being able to assemble together. Then we realized we weren't getting through without getting injured. I knew they wouldn't let us through because someone told me they wouldn't. Also, earlier, when it looked like we were going to march downtown they blocked us because they didn't know we were just going to take a left to go back onto Capitol Hill. But when we went back they weren't bothering us.

People ran to Pine and Boren, a few of us got there and could have made it but the rest of the group took a longer route and that allowed the police to block us. We knew we needed the numbers to get there, so we waited. By that time more police showed up in riot gear with bikes lined up. They were trying to trap people. At this point I started giving people masks. People started bringing out umbrellas to block pepper spray, because they had huge pepper spray cans out. Once we were marching together as a group, they started pushing us, pepper spraying us, and using flash bang grenades. People were getting hurt. I was on the front line and a cop was pushing me with his bike yelling at me to move back. At that point the group dispersed a little, so that people could catch their breath and people who got pepper sprayed could get medical attention. One person got arrested at that point.

I knew that police wouldn't let us through because they were physically blocking us. It was obvious that they were trying to keep us out of downtown.

I felt confused, because they knew our rights, we knew our rights, but they weren't going to give us our rights. To see it that blatantly was confusing to me, because they didn't care at all. It was confusing and irritating. They wasted so much money on unnecessary force, arrests, and overtime for citizens that were peaceful. The level of force was scary and unnecessary.

I was there to show that black people are an important part of the economy, and to not spend money. I wanted to show people that so many black people are being killed by police and mistreated by police. For so many black people, our lives are inconvenient for the system, and we wanted to make an inconvenience to show what's really going on for black people in this society. I was out there to be part of these protests.

We realized as a group that there was no way for us to get through the police line. At this point some of us had been out since 11:00 AM, we were shivering, soaked, and trying to take care of people who had been harmed. Then, we started running because someone realized we could go through the convention center via a park trail. All of us went through that trail, down stairs, to get back downtown. They tried to block us and keep us away at 4th and Pine. Our group was about the same size, everybody eventually made it downtown. When we were running, they didn't know where we were running to and they couldn't find us. The convention center was closed, so we took another route that let us out on 6th Ave. We trickled in, not all at the same time.

Some people had made it through 4th and Pine, but others didn't. Initially, the police were blocking one sidewalk area, but at this point they were blocking all sides of the intersection. We didn't know how we would get through. Some of us went to through the store to get around the police. We got out and were screaming to let the other people through and suddenly the police stopped and let everyone through. It was really confusing, but I think at that point they just gave up.

We were marching in the street throughout the day. At Pike/Pine/Boren police were blocking off the sidewalks as well as the streets. Everybody got back to Westlake when the tree ceremony started and we were chanting. Police were protecting the tree. We were dancing, singing, holding signs, having a speakout.

After that, people started running into the mall and we all went upstairs. They had a private event going on and we went in, nobody was being mean to the individuals. They were scared, but nobody threatened/touched/was aggressive towards anyone. We did some chanting, then we headed back down because the police showed up and aggressively forced us to leave. We went back down by the tree, we did a speak-out and a moment of silence, and then I left.

**December 4, 2014**



When I got there around 6, there was a group of approx. 70-100 people who were doing speak-outs and then started marching. I had friends at SCCC and I tried to get the group up there, but others didn't want to go up there. About 20-30 people marched down from SCCC. We were on 4th and Pine, they were on 5th and Pine. They stopped there and blocked traffic there; we on 4th and Pine were finishing a die-in so I went towards 5th and we were going to move the crowd up pine (approx.. 6:30-45). Cops were blocking intersections to control where we could go and wouldn't let us go up Pine or take a left on 5th, cop told me they were trying to keep us from going into oncoming traffic.

We got to the intersection where Niketown is. We wanted to go down towards Pacific Place, but the cops wouldn't let us. They were also blocking sidewalks and not letting anyone through. I saw a friend in a confrontation with cop, so I went to separate them. At that point some of us broke off from the group, because the police were out of control and aggressive. Three of us started walking together quietly, and I looked behind us and there were 5 police officers in riot gear following us. Didn't talk to us, but followed us for 5 blocks. Bystanders were confused about why police were following us. We saw the rest of protestors on 4th and Pine, so we joined them and people blocked the intersection. At this point there were no cops in the area. Cops stopped following us once we got to the Gap. People in cars were angry. We were chanting. At this point there was cops by the Starbucks, but they were just standing there. There was a crowd of bystanders on the sidewalk, some videotaping. All of the sudden, a man got out his car with a metal pipe and charged us. We started screaming, some people from the sidewalk came to our defense. I went to the police on the corner and told them there was a man trying to attack us but they stood there smirking at me. They eventually walked over and pushed us away from him, instead of arresting him. A couple officers led him back to his car. I walked to take a picture of his license plate, police held me back. We stayed at the intersection and were still blocking traffic. A white woman asked other white people to let the cars through. She was saying that her mother was in the car and was going to pee her pants/have a heart attack. She went back through the car. Another woman was trying to convince drivers to drive into protestors. Then the guy comes back with his metal pipe. By this time, people had been able to turn around. Police got guy back in his car again.

Police had come back to keep people away from vehicles so we started marching north on Fourth. We got onto 3rd Ave near McDonalds and blocked that intersection. At that point, an irritated person waiting for the bus spit on us. Police didn't do anything. Person who was spat on didn't want to press charges. Another lady was frustrated. Police weren't really do anything, then they suddenly started pushing people and yelling "move!", and said that protest was interfering with pedestrians. We moved to another intersection, blocked that intersection and we were chanting. Cops were blocking us from letting us through. One corner was open, so I went to get water for people. One person on sidewalk was yelling at protestors, and protestors

were yelling back. A different guy was irritated and yelling at protestors. He left, then came back with a blue briefcase and looked super suspicious. Someone yelled that it was it a bomb, and he threw the briefcase at us like it was a bomb. People started running. The police didn't do anything and were rude, saying "Now you want us to protect you?"

## **Appendix H**

### **Witness H**

**November 28, 2014**

We got to the protest a little bit early (11:00 AM instead of 1:00 PM). We were in front of the carousel playing some music and chanting. Two officers approached us and told us to move or they would fine us. A person I was with knew the provisions said that if they couldn't hear it from 75 feet away then it was okay. We moved across the street and they didn't bother us anymore. Around 12:40 a crowd was gathering, about 30-50 people. I realized that I lost my keys. I backtracked to where I parked (around 3d and Cedar), got the key out of the trunk. Went back to the protest about 2:30; at this point the march was going up to Capitol Hill. We marched up Pine (one-way going downtown, so marching against traffic) and met back up with march around Pine and Melrose

When we got to Pike & Broadway, we just stopped in the intersection. We were there for about 15 minutes (by this time, about 3:00 PM). Some people did speeches and chants. We went to protest Comet, Lost Lake, Marios, Caffe Vita and we were doing chants. Employees of Comet comes out and asked what was going on. A conflict between some protestors wanting to stay on Capitol Hill to protest businesses because owner was advocating for more policing to target East Africans and those who wanted to leave broke out. Groups went to each business chanting, then met back up.

At about 3:30, the march started going back downtown. We were able to go down until we hit Pike and Boren, and we started realized that the police were blocking us and weren't going to let us through. A line of police in riot gear were blocking the streets and sidewalk. Also police on bikes lingered waiting to follow. They stood there with their batons and were very intimidating. I knew that they wouldn't let us through because of how they were acting.

After that, we went to Pine and Boren. We started running to try and get downtown. Cops on bikes starting moving. There were already police at Pine and Boren as well. Police were blocking in a semi-circle, so Pine and Boren were both blocked. The took their bicycles, used them as shields, stood behind them, and then riot police behind the police with bicycles. Police with rubber bullet guns arrived as well. We were chanting, and people tried to get through. They were in a crescent shape, blocking streets and sidewalks. They were holding bicycles in hands

waiting to move them. Riot cops had their sticks ready to strike. At first we kept saying let us through, but the police didn't say anything. Then, people started linking arms and people with umbrellas passed them to the front to shield people from pepper spray. The police then raised their bicycles and started pushing into the crowd, other police were pushing with sticks, bike cops were kicking as well. They weren't letting anybody (bystanders, cars, protestors) through. About three people got snatched by cops.

Police were using force to prevent people from getting through the line. They used flash bangs, I didn't see any pepper spray being used but I believe it was used.

Once we started realizing they weren't going to let us through, everybody started running up the hill back towards Pike. We couldn't go down Pike and Boren because there were more cops there, so we kept running towards Union. We took a right and ran into the park by the convention center and got out in front of the convention center.

About 300 people gathered at 5th and Pine at approx. 4:30. Some people had already ran in to Westlake center area (near tree lighting). A lot of people there for shopping and the treelighting ceremony, so it was very, very crowded. Some protestors (~100) had already made it to the tree lighting ceremony. Police blocked us at 5th and Pine with bikes, two rows of cops: one facing protestors already at ceremony and one facing protestors trying to get to tree lighting ceremony. Two lines of bike cops with riot police behind them blocked sidewalks, so shoppers were also being blocked. Both groups of protestors were chanting to let the protestors in, about 15 minutes later they just gave up.

Approximately 500 people went up to the hill and about 300 made it back downtown.

Then, we went to the tree lighting facing Westlake, chanting for approx.. 30 minutes (at approx.. 5 PM); We also had conversations with people present for the tree lighting ceremony in order to raise awareness. I wanted to help people understand the travesties and injustices occurring. At 5:30 or so, protestors started entering Westlake. Protestors went upstairs to where the performance was happening, police weren't stopping them. Once protestors got on balcony, they started chanting.

At 5:50 or so, people started running downstairs, and it seemed like the cops were coming up to shut it down. Cops were being careful, because there were a lot of people watching (at the tree ceremony). Everybody ran downstairs and outside, did a little bit more chanting, someone got on the bullhorn and gave a speech, and then 4.5 minutes of silence. Then, I left after the 4.5 minutes of silence.

I was there to bring inconvenience to downtown and to spread awareness about police violence against black people. Although I believe there are other ways to raise awareness, I believe protest is an effective tool and I was there to protest.

I don't feel comfortable with the police, I don't think they're on my side, I have brothers that have been profiled. And after experiencing the police conduct, it has reaffirmed the fact that police hate us. The verbal conduct, the use of force to keep us from protesting, it's apparent. I felt like I didn't have rights, I felt that they had already made assumptions about us like we were going to create chaos. I'm not involved in violence or verbally attacking cops, but it's almost like they had a blanket assumption about everybody and they were not remorseful at all. I felt like my rights were violated (freedom of speech, freedom to assemble, right to protest), I was literally scared, I felt like I was going to be attacked at any moment. I was scared for my life. My assumption was that police were going to let us protest peacefully like we have before. It seemed like they were more interested in protecting people there for the tree lighting ceremony than letting us peacefully protest. If we hadn't cut through the park we would have never made it downtown.

#### **December 4, 2015**

There was a group of us at Seattle Central Community College (~15 people) at approx. 6:30pm. We marched downtown in the street on Pine while chanting. Once we got to 5th and Pine we saw the others and they started marching towards us. We did some chanting there (in the intersection, then we headed to 5th and Pike, attempting to demonstrate at 6th and Pike. We realized the police were blocking us off at that point. We were sitting in the street and cars were piling up so we stayed intentionally for about 20 minutes. We noticed cops blocking from movie theatre to Niketown – they were blocking street and sidewalk. People started saying that they [the police] weren't going to let us through -- they were trying to keep us out of downtown. The police were blocking on two directions; we couldn't go west or north. After chanting for a while, there was a little bit of space so people started running through to get around the cops getting north. About 40 people made it through (of ~250). The remainder just went up to Capitol hill. Once we got to entrance to the express lane near the convention center, we stood there and chanted. I went back downtown to the smaller group, I acted like a pedestrian because there were still police everywhere. I met up with the smaller group at 4th Ave near Macys. The group was heading north, then took a right and we kept making turns because the police kept cornering us (getting in a circle around us) in riot gear. We were blocked in almost 4 sides, but they gave us room to go in whatever direction they chose to allow. We eventually made it back to 5th and Pine, at this point we were trying to block traffic but the group was too small.

At 5th and Pine a car was trying to get through the crowd and police came and pushed us out of the way because the crowd was so small. We were there for about 20 minutes, and then the large group met back up with us downtown. We started marching up to Westlake, we got to Westlake and went to 3rd and Pine. Then we made a left, we stopped some buses, and there were a few exchanges between people waiting for the bus and protestors; one person got spit on by person waiting for bus and police refused to do anything. Some of us were standing in front of a big bus. Police grabbed their bikes and pushed us out of the way. Once they started pushing us, we went to 3rd and Pike. There, we made a left. We went 4th and Pike, made another left, all the while chanting in the street. At 4th and Pine, we made a right, made another right on 5th and Pine, back to 5th and Pike. There we had another moment of silence.

Police stopped controlling the direction of the march once the larger group joined back up. A guy with briefcase (last stop at 5th and Pike) was confrontational, then threw a suitcase at the crowd. Cops again don't do anything. Then, people just left around 9:30-10:00 PM.

This night, I felt the most vulnerable because the crowd was smaller, I was pushed, and I didn't know what they were going to do to us. I went back to the smaller crowd because I had family there and I did not feel comfortable being away from them. I felt like I needed to be there to be a witness, to deter the police from doing anything. I was worried because I know what the police are capable.

## **Appendix I**

### **Witness I**

I was at demonstration on Monday the 24th; Friday the 28th; Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday the 1st.

#### **November 28, 2014**

I arrived about 1:20-1:30 and people started marching; I caught up with them on 5th and Union. Pretty quickly, the crowd turned back to Westlake (almost immediately after arrival); I didn't see why. We went back to Westlake and people started to funnel into Westlake Mall. We went up escalators, people were chanting, most people went up to top floor of the mall, marched around, some chanting, up and down different floors of mall. People left Westlake as a crowd. Then, we marched to the entrance to transit tunnel on Pine between 5th and 6<sup>th</sup>. There was some sort of skirmish when the cops tried to close the transit tunnel while protestors were trying to get into the transit tunnel. Cops/security tried to close gate while others tried to keep it open. Saw some people moving away from gate holding their eyes due to possible pepper spray. People also tried to get into Nordstroms; a few store employees were holding Nordstroms door shut and then cops get there to push people back. Cop tried to reach into the

crowd to grab a protestor, claiming he hit the cop. They tried to arrest but then gave up. The crowd then marched to Pacific Place and entered the mall. We spent approximately 30-45 minutes in Pacific Place, with quite a bit of marching on third floor, in between floors and chanting. People left Pacific Place.

March then went towards Capitol Hill. There was a moment of silence for 4.5 minutes, then speeches and chants. At this point, there were approximately 300 people in march. We marched over to Pike, chanting outside Comet Tavern. I didn't know why, but it's because owner has been calling the cops on east African youth and pressing SPD for more patrols in the area. There was another speak-out in intersection of Pike and 10th. People were there for another 20-30 minutes, maybe longer. I was milling about on outskirts of crowd and didn't hear what most speakers had to say.

After that, we tried to get back downtown via Pike sometime between 3-4 PM. The cops set up just past Boren in riot gear, blocking the street and sidewalk; there was no way to continue down that street. Cops would not let anybody pass – I didn't see anybody pass through. Protestors marched up to the line of cops and there was anticipation of chemical weapons (pepper spray, tear gas). People spontaneously passed umbrellas to front line of protestors to use as shield against pepper spray and tear gas. I was never on the front, but I saw that happening. I suspected there would be some sort of chemical weapons. I'm not sure if anyone was actually sprayed at that point. Nobody came back to me looking for eye rinse. Clearly, police were not going to let us go down that street. I don't recall hearing announcement about being blocked from downtown. A lot of people tried to get through, but police made a physical barrier and nobody got through.

After this, the crowd decided to try a different street. People started running back up Pike, headed north on Boren to attempt to access downtown via Pine. Cops were quicker and set up line of bike cops on Pine and Boren that was thick enough that people couldn't get through. I could tell people could not get through because of physical barricade of bikes, yelling at people "Get back, Get back!" I did not see them let anybody through. Crowd was a little bit dispersed -- not everyone from Pike and Boren made it and some people were standing back. There were fewer people standing near cops than previously. There were different attitudes and opinions about what the protest should try to do. Police used flash bang grenades, maybe pepper spray, and possibly tear gas. Several people needed eye rinses, people were out of breath. Around that time, police snatched at least one person. They were still not letting people through; after the flash bangs/tear gas, the police advanced with bikes and yelling at people to move back (moving crowd back up Boren); line was diagonal to cut off access to downtown.

I felt in danger and I felt threatened. I was not allowed to move around city as I'm usually used to doing. I anticipated that they would use chemical weapons and they did; I was worried about

chemical weapons, and I was worried about getting snatched out of crowd by police. After police blocked both Pike and Pine, I was worried that police would follow smaller groups to arrest people.

I went to be part of and support the outcry against the fact that police kill black and brown people with impunity regularly. I was going to be part of a protest and I wanted to see how other people were going to protest. When it became entering malls, I thought that was fine.

### **December 1, 2014**

The crowd was gathering at Westlake; maybe around 100 protesters or less. Protest called for 6, but I got there late at approximately 6:30. People started marching right after I got there. I left right away to run an errand. I tried to meet back up and couldn't find it, then found some people who had been protesting and they said the cops dispersed the march. This was by Stewart and Boren at approximately 7:30. Small groups of people were walking back in the direction of Westlake, so I headed there. I stopped because I saw a group of bike cops loading a person into a van. Some people on the sidewalk were yelling. I asked someone who said that the guy was just standing on the sidewalk and then 6-10 bike cops swooped in and arrested him. I started walking back towards Westlake, it was the most militarized that I remember Seattle being. I passed at least 5-10 squads of riot cops in the course of a couple blocks. Some on corners, some in front of stores, some walking down sidewalk in groups. They looked like groups of soldiers on every corner, multiple groups per block. I was very uncertain what they were doing and how they were going to treat people on the sidewalk. At this point there was no protest going on. So they were just patrolling the streets. I tried to keep my distance, I don't know what they would have done. It was a very unusual sight.

I made my way back down to Westlake; there was a smallish group of protestors gathered but police had blocked off multiple streets so there wasn't a route for a march to go. The only thing for protestors to do without a conflict with police was to stand at Westlake and go between Westlake Plaza and Westlake Park. There were riot cops in front of Westlake Mall. Protestors were just standing on Pine, there was nowhere else to go.

The experience made me feel scared and worried, I had never seen that number of police in such a small area, so concentrated. I definitely thought they were stepping up their restrictions big time compared to last week.

### **Appendix J**

#### **Witness J**

**November 24, 2014**

I arrived at Westlake at approximately 1:00pm. The demonstration was about the grand jury decision not to indict Darren Wilson and more broadly about police brutality and police/government mistreatment of black people. It was raining and very cold. We met in Westlake center. We marched in there and chanted, then we went to Pacific Place at one point, walked around and chanted, tried to get into Westlake transit center to protest but police pulled down gate to tunnel. We spent less than an hour downtown.

We walked up to Capitol Hill and protested outside of Comet Tavern then headed back downtown. When we got to downtown on Boren the police formed a line blocking us off from going downtown, I noticed they were in riot gear. I noticed that because beforehand police had been letting people do their thing all day (the bike cops in yellow vests). Maybe there riot gear before, but don't remember.

Sidewalks were also blocked (over the freeway overpass). We tried alternate routes downtown, but they were blocked as well. Police were already there, blocked in the same way with line of police and riot gear. The march dispersed after that. Most people made it downtown. People trickled through and police eventually let people through. The police did not say anything about why people were not allowed downtown. People tried to get through and asked to be let through. I was confused about why they were blocking us from downtown. We chanted for a while, let them know that we were trying to go downtown, said we had a constitutional right to be downtown. It was about an hour that people were blocked from downtown.

People pushed and police used pepper spray and flash bang, police started hitting people in face with bikes.

I felt terrified. When we were trying to get back into downtown, they were pepper spraying and using flash bangs, we were chanting that we are not afraid but I was terrified. The march was peaceful beforehand,

After a friend got arrested, I and my friend both had panic attacks; we very freaked out. The arrest occurred back downtown.

I experienced some hearing damage from flash bang. The police threw it right in front of my feet. Police were taking umbrellas because people were using umbrellas to protect from pepper spray – the police snatched umbrellas and threw them on the ground. I did not see people using umbrellas to stab at cops, I was one or two lines back from the line of police. People had linked arms.

When we were at the corner by Westlake, someone else was getting arrested. I don't remember who it was, but three cops were standing off to the side and were pointing and laughing at the guy tackled on the ground.



## **Appendix K**

### **Witness K**

#### **November 28, 2014**

We met at Westlake Park and marched to Westlake Mall, then did demonstrating in the mall -- marching and chanting. We went to top and came down to bottom level and staged a die-in. Over Then we marched up to Pacific Place and did the same thing – up to the top, chanting and leaving – about 7 minutes total. We knew that it wouldn't well received if we stayed long, so we just made a demonstration and then left. When we came out, that is when the police started redirecting and heading us up to Capitol Hill. Organizers wanted to get back downtown to do last action at the tree lighting.

There were at least 20-30 bike police in armor, 15-20 full riot gear police. We tried a couple different routes to get back downtown, but couldn't find one. When people tried to get through, the police set off what sounded like fireworks. I realized later it was sound grenades. I realized that this was the extremes they [the police] would go to keep the protesters out of the city. A person knocked unconscious when they arrested him. The crowd was tense, very desperate – frustrated that the police wouldn't let us through and exercise our first amendments right. I heard a lot people screaming "Why? Why are you doing this?".

#### **December 4, 2014**

We met at Westlake and headed past the convention center. We wanted to get back towards the Westlake area. No one even tried to go in any malls. We wanted to try and get back in the general area of the malls – to be in that neighborhood. The police let about 30 people through and wouldn't let the rest of the group through. 15 bike officers and a dozen riot officers to start with, then brought another 30 riot officers.

If anything has been reinforced for me, it is that the property is more important than the people and that is a really sad feeling to get about your police force.

The First Amendment rights are all about being heard; if we want change, we want the message to get out there. If we are in cap hill, we get a few honks every once in a while, but most of the time people there have already heard the message. By being in the Westlake area, there are Christmas crowds everywhere have a change to get people to read signs and pamphlets. There are people who might have only heard mainstream news and might be impacted by how many different kinds of people are outside protesting and might be reached. To be kept away from that kind of outreach and to have the chance to interact with those people is very frustrating. I

go so I can amplify the voices I am with; shouting in a darkened street doesn't do anything – we have to shout to people.

**Appendix L**

**Witness L**

**December 1, 2014**

I marched at the protest on the first of December. I decided to leave the group to go to a café. We were at the back of the march. We stopped and stepped on to the sidewalk. There were several lines of police officers and vehicles following the march that passed by us. We attempted to go along the sidewalk along Westlake to a café. There were standing officers with shields over their faces, holding batons and wearing enhanced body armor. They were not standing shoulder to shoulder – there were gaps and police were letting people pass through, but no one who looked like a marcher. When I tried to get through, I couldn't when I was holding a sign, but a watching a pedestrian be allowed the pass. The only difference was that I had a sign and he didn't.