

DRAFT PLAN

(The various elements this situation from several years ago provides examples of elements that can be considered in other situations. Circumstances and resources will vary.)

Tone-setting (saturation of messaging to establish norm of peacekeeping and addressing community expectations.

Largely pre-event activity

- Ministerial Alliance
 - Bullets points for Sunday Service Sermons
 - Church marquees posted citywide with “Peace After the Verdict”
 - Ministerial alliance press conference immediately following the verdict
 - Arrange speakers, verdict alert, parking spaces at the court, podium and sound, notification to media (pre-arranged)
- Peace Ambassadors
 - The organization of the “peace ambassadors” was primarily a tone-setting activity. The activity on the day of the verdict served as the focus of the day. That they numbered some 1500 and included mostly active gang members became the day’s story, not anger and disruption. Additionally, the preparatory work required a process of engagement with law enforcement, which served to reduce tension between these two important community segments.
- Business
 - Stores, particularly downtown, had signs “Peace After the Verdict”
 - Store and businesses to get alert on verdict reached, option for closures, early release of employees.
- Schools
 - Will have facilitated discussion on trial process
 - Peace Officers Bill of Rights
 - Direct interaction and exchange between students and officers
- Media/Radio
 - Panel discussions on community radio on trial, with explanation of standards of proof required, Peace Officer Bill of Rights, police internal affairs process
- Family of victim
 - Provide condolence, answer questions as able, exchange direct contact information
- Venue
 - Identify venue for protest(s). Clear nuisances/debris in advance. (1)Have separations planned for counterprotests. (2)Plan containment approaches, (3)rapid crowd dispersal [traffic control, additional/free mass transit existing area, pedestrian only areas, etc.].
- Media Center
 - Rumor control
 - Making peacemaking activities identifiable/accessible to media
 - Public Messaging. Instructions, alerts, guidance,

Preparation/Pre-positioning

Pre-event activity

- Community Assessment

Risk assessment deconstructed foreseeable crowd element profiles to identify approaches specific to each. For example, the bullet points for the ministerial alliance, the radio panels and school dialogues came from this assessment. The peacekeeping focus is to bring parties into engagement. Consider discussion/announcement of “rules of engagement” in advance of event.

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Pre-agreements/ understandings of conduct is advance. Get contact information for key points of contact.

- Protesters (reacting specifically to this event/incident, spontaneous, grieving, hurt, angry)
 - Tends to be emotional and individual
- Protesters (existing groups involved with locally issues; likely to be at a stage where some specific demands are developed).
 - Frequently, these demand tend to be immediate things such as terminations or arrests, as the protest process matures larger policy and procedural reforms develop.
 - This level of assessment provides the specific issue where engagement of parties becomes possible.
- Protesters (existing organization that have institutional missions for particular advocacy issue or community)
- Opportunists (ideological, economic, individuals with personal objectives/interests)
- *The size and proportion of these protest segments provide information to mitigate risks in advance and identify potential vulnerabilities to disruption.*
- Venue(s)
 - Likely protest venues (symbolic, space, logistics, etc.)
 - Peace Ambassador routes
 - Prayer Vigil
 - Community Command Post/Media Center
Ministerial alliance, peace ambassadors, several law enforcement agencies, city officials and others populated the community command post. Unlike a purely law enforcement command post (which also existed), the community command post was a unified command-like structure which promoted a collaborative effort for the conduct of a peaceful First Amendment activity. Some groups not comfortable to participating, were provided direct phone numbers to reach the CP in the event a situation arose where they might wish to engage any or all of the elements involved.

Day of Verdict

- Advance notification from courts
 - Community Command Post made operational.
 - Ministers deployed to courthouse to offer first messaging.
 - Peace Ambassadors called in and deployed.
Ambassadors were recruited from local gang, provided training and strict guidelines for conducts. Four assembly locations were identified and the ambassadors leafleted in yellow t-shirts with “peace ambassador lettering. Leaflets announced a prayer vigil. conducted by ministerial alliance. Ambassadors became the media focus and visual on that day.
 - School staggered and directed dismissal. Students dispersed in staggered groups and routed away from nuisance magnets/attractions. Embed teachers to escort students.
 - Media center provided a mechanism to direct media to the “peace ambassadors” activity and a centralized neutral venue from which to coordinate public messaging.

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