

General Instructions for All Participants New Lake Simulation

New Lake, located roughly 60 miles west of the State Capital, is a moderately sized city of approximately 60,000 people within the direct city limits. New Lake is surrounded by the suburban towns of Riverrun, East New Lake, and Valley Creek, which boast populations of about 20,000 each. New Lake and the surrounding suburbs have a diverse demographic, with many of the citizens being African-American or of Middle Eastern descent. Riverrun University, located within the town limits of Riverrun, is a large employer for many citizens in this area.

On Monday morning on a school sponsored trip to tour the State Capital, students from New Lake High School witnessed a gun-control rally occurring. Some of these students started shouting pro-gun chants which garnered attention. Within minutes, the gun-control advocates came face to face with the pro-gun students. After a short verbal altercation, various reports state that the interaction suddenly turned violent, although both sides are saying the other was the first aggressor. There was no video footage of the start of the fight, but subsequent video footage shows both sides physically involved. One New Lake High School student was sent to the hospital with a broken nose. Two of the gun-control advocates were also sent to the hospital with bruised ribs.

By Tuesday morning, clips of the fight, as well as identification of the individuals involved, went viral on social media. New Lake High School has received hundreds of phone calls, including threats, calling for the expulsion of the students involved. Even some parents of the students have reported that they have been harassed at their workplace because of this incident. The parents are concerned for the safety of their families as well as their children's futures.

Social media users have even begun contacting local elected officials demanding their comment on the situation. Upon this social media inquiry into local New Lake politicians, prior tweets of a City Councilman were unearthed. These tweets included xenophobic phrases such as, "Towel heads are infiltrating America, we must be vigilant!" and what appears to be photo of him in a black-face costume on Halloween. The City Councilman has apologized but is refusing to step down. The Mayor has also received word that protests, which includes members of Muslim and African American communities, are going to occur the next day demanding the Councilman's resignation. The protests are anticipated to occur at City Hall and at Riverrun University.

In addition, there are rumors that ACT for America, a controversial self-described national security grass roots organization, is planning to arrive in New Lake to demonstrate in support of the City Councilman and his right to free speech. ACT for America describes its mission as "combating the threat of radical Islam to the safety of Americans and to democracy."

By Wednesday morning, New Lake has two scandals on their hands which has started to attract the attention of the national news media as well as impending protestors who are bound to clash.

On top of all of this, the Mayor, who is seeking reelection this year, has a town hall scheduled for this evening. This town hall was scheduled weeks ago, prior to any of these issues arising, and if they canceled it now, the negative PR repercussions would be disastrous.

The mayor has called for an emergency meeting in anticipation of what is sure to be a volatile Town Hall meeting. The main issues the mayor intends to address at the meeting are: 1) how to handle the immediate issue of the conflicting protest groups, including where to place them and how to maintain everyone's safety; 2) how to handle the City Councilman's prior tweets, which sends a message that minorities may not be welcome in New Lake; 3) What response (if at all) the City should have to the incident involving the New Lake High School students; and 4) What message does the city of New Lake want to provide to the national news Media to attempt to mitigate the negative attention it is receiving.

List of Roles for New Lake Simulation

1. Mayor
2. Deputy Mayor
3. Mayor's campaign advisor
4. Media coordinator for Mayor's office
5. Director of Community Affairs
6. Assistant Director of Community Affairs
7. Communications Director for Mayor
8. City Attorney
9. Assistant City Attorney
10. Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Individual
11. Assistant Building and Grounds Maintenance Individual
12. Sherriff
13. City Police Chief
14. Assistant city police chief
15. City Police Media Coordinator
16. Media coordinator for Sherriff's office
17. City Council President
18. Mosque Iman
19. Interfaith alliance/pastor
20. Superintendent
21. Bar association
22. Urban League
23. CRS individual
24. University President
25. University Police Chief
26. University Media coordinator

The mayor has sent the following email to relevant city leaders to attend this emergency meeting:

From: Mayor, City of New Lake
Sent: [Wednesday, 9:00 am]
To: <City Leaders>
Subject: Meeting re 'New Lake in the News'- Proposed agenda below

Good morning all,

The last few days have shown New Lake in a light that we know is simply not representative of who we truly are. Due to these issues, I have requested this meeting to assess

and strategize ahead of the Town Hall meeting scheduled for tonight, as well as the protests occurring later today. The main issues the city intends to tackle are:

1. Policing- how do we maintain the First Amendment rights of the protestors while also ensuring their safety and the safety of everyone around them
 - a. What is going to constitute arrest-able conduct at the protests? This needs to be spelled out prior to the demonstrations.
 - i. What are the possible risks of arresting individuals while protesting?
 - b. How do we handle potential public records requests from the police body cam footage at these demonstrations?
 - c. We need to ensure that there are sufficient law enforcement officials at both Riverrun University and City Hall to provide the most effective policing.
 - d. We need to provide a perimeter that the protestors will be able to demonstrate within. The perimeter should be divided between protestors to ensure the clashing groups do not come in contact with each other.
2. What kind of message should the city of New Lake put out on our social media accounts to demonstrate that we are taking these issues seriously?

I would like an answer in the next hour, in bullet point form, for how to address the first two issues provided above. These issues are the most pressing since the protests will be occurring imminently and it is gravely important that the city is open and communicative to its citizens. The following issues will be addressed as well:

3. Preserve the peace- the Town Hall meeting tonight is likely going to be volatile. We need to be able to discuss these recent matters in a tone that encourages and promotes participation and an atmosphere of trust.
4. How do we ensure that the information being circulated in the news and on social media are accurate portrayals of what is actually occurring?
5. What role should the city have in publicly addressing the incident involving the students from New Lake High School?
6. What should the city's message be to its citizens and those following the news regarding the City Councilman's conduct?
7. What experts or additional groups would provide valuable information to New Lake during this time?
8. How do we promote both the PR version of New Lake to keep encouraging people and businesses to move to town as well as promoting the local identity among our existing community members?

We will also be discussing who will have a chance to speak tonight at the Town Hall meeting. Please consider who you think should attend and whether or not they should give a statement.

Thank you for your help on this. We appreciate your hard work. I will see you at the meeting.

Sincerely, Mayor