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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NAACP OF SAN JOSÉ/ SILICON VALLEY; SAN
JOSÉ PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER; M.
MICHAEL ACOSTA, AS AN INDIVIDUAL;
AND JOSEPH CAÑAS; LESLIE VASQUEZ;
PETER ALLEN; SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT;
YESSICA RILES; JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES
RODRIGUEZ; ALEX LEE; JOSÉPH
MALDONADO; CINDY CUELLAR;
MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH; AND MEGAN
SWIFT, ON BEHALF OF THEMSELVES AND
ALL OTHERS SIMILARLY SITUATED,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ; SAM LICCARDO;
EDGARDO GARCIA; DAVID SYKES; JASON
DWYER; RONNIE LOPEZ, LEE TASSIO, JARED
YUEN; SEAN MICHAEL CURRY, OFFICER
FNU DELGADO, and DOES 1-100,

Defendants.

Case No:

**CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT FOR
DAMAGES, DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

42 U.S.C. § 1983

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

I. INTRODUCTION

1 1. Black people have been hunted, brutalized and killed by the police since the
2 inception of law enforcement in the United States, including a demonstrable history of
3 violence in San José. This action arises out of protests across the nation in response to
4 the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police Department officers.
5 Floyd's death, so soon after law enforcement killed Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud
6 Arbery, mobilized millions of people around the country to condemn the deaths of
7 Black and Brown people by law enforcement in one of the largest social justice
8 movements in U.S. history.¹

9 2. In San José, thousands of demonstrators took to the streets on May 29, 2020, and
10 for several days thereafter, to express their view that police brutality and
11 institutionalized racism must end. But the demonstrators were met with brutal and
12 racially targeted repression by defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ.

13 3. This is a civil rights action for damages, injunctive and declaratory relief arising
14 from unconstitutional CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police's violence and arrests of
15 demonstrators on May 29-31, 2020. Named plaintiffs M. MICHAEL ACOSTA (suing
16 as an individual), and JOSEPH CAÑAS, LESLIE VASQUEZ, PETER ALLEN,
17 SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT, YESSICA RILES, JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES
18 RODRIGUEZ, ALEX LEE, JOSÉPH MALDONADO, CINDY CUELLAR,
19 MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH, AND MEGAN SWIFT (suing as individuals and class
20 representatives) seek redress for the violation of their constitutional rights to assemble,
21 protest, and be free from racial discrimination, disability discrimination, excessive
22 force, and wrongful arrest. Organization plaintiffs NAACP OF SAN JOSÉ / SILICON
23 VALLEY and SAN JOSÉ PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER, along with all of the
24 individual plaintiffs, seek prospective and declaratory relief to ensure the right to
25 express viewpoints critical of the police or government in San José without fear of

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27 ¹Larry Buchanan, Quoctrung Bui, and Jugal K. Patel, *Black Lives Matter May Be the Largest Movement in U.S. History*, N.Y. Times (Jul. 3, 2020), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/03/us/george-floyd-protests-crowd-size.html>.

violent repression or wrongful arrest.

1 4. Starting on May 29, 2020, and continuing during the demonstrations on May 30,
2 31, and thereafter, the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police fired impact munitions into the
3 bodies of unarmed, predominately peaceful demonstrators, observers and journalists
4 without justification; threw explosive flash-bang and “stinger” grenades at them;
5 attacked them with chemical weapons; and beat them with hands and batons.

6 5. Impact munitions are widely known to cause serious harm. These munitions,
7 also known as Projectile Impact Weapons (PIW), Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM), or
8 Kinetic Impact Projectiles (KIP), can cause fractures, serious organ injuries, and death,
9 especially when the point of impact is the head, neck, or torso.² Two of the plaintiffs in
10 this case were struck in the eye: plaintiff M. MICHAEL ACOSTA lost his eye entirely,
11 and plaintiff JOSEPH CAÑAS sustained permanent vision impairment. Police also shot
12 several plaintiffs with impact munitions in the groin area. The groin is another area
13 where impact munitions can cause serious injuries or death if shot into.³

14 6. The CITY and its Police Department failed to establish policies to mitigate the
15 risk of harm from impact munitions, were intentionally indifferent to the risk of these
16 harms, and caused Plaintiffs’ injuries. Indeed, the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ has admitted
17 that “[c]rowd control training has been minimal and infrequent” and that most of the
18 commanders and officers assigned to the events at issue in this case were not trained
19 adequately.⁴

20 7. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police have a long history of targeting Black, Brown,
21 and Muslim communities, or people who they perceive as such, for racially
22 discriminatory policing, and unreasonable force. The pattern and practice of racially
23 discriminatory policing persisted on the abovementioned dates, constituting
24 discrimination based on race, religion and national origin. Plaintiffs such as MICHAEL

25 ²Rohini J. Haar, et al., *Death, injury and disability from kinetic impact projectiles in crowd-control settings: a*
26 *systematic review*. *British Med. J. Open* 1 (2017).

³*Id.* at 5.

27 ⁴Edgardo Garcia, *Memorandum: Police Department Preliminary After Action Report for the Public Protests, Civil*
Unrest, and Law Enforcement Response From May 29 — June 7, 2020 1, 4-5 (2020),
<https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8769493&GUID=3ED4A6F5-F069-4E7F-BADE-99421D9991B3>.

ACOSTA, JOSEPH CAÑAS, LESLIE VASQUEZ, YESSICA RILES, JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES RODRIGUEZ, ALEX LEE, JOSÉPH MALDONADO, CINDY CUELLAR, MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH, and others similarly situated, were targeted by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers to be shot, beaten, and/or arrested. Additionally, MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH was subjected to racial and/or religious slurs.

8. Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, SAM LICCARDO, EDGARDO GARCIA, DAVID SYKES, and DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ officials violated the plaintiffs' constitutional rights by maintaining customs, policies and/or practices which would foreseeably result in constitutional violations such as those suffered by the plaintiffs, and/or by their deliberate indifference in the hiring, training, supervision and discipline of CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers involved in the May 29 – June 7, 2020 operations. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendants encouraged, tacitly authorized, and/or condoned unlawful customs, policies and/or practices: the use of excessive force; the failure to report the use of excessive force; the failure to hold officers and supervisors accountable for the use of excessive force; the failure to enforce policies which were intended to prevent the use of excessive force on civilians and the violation of their rights to free speech, freedom of association and freedom of the press by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers during demonstrations; firing chemical agents and impact munitions at non-violent persons; wrongful arrests without probable cause; the failure to hold officers and supervisors responsible for wrongful arrests; the racial and religious profiling of perceived Muslims and Black, Indigenous and people of color by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers; the failure to hold officers and supervisors accountable for racial profiling; the failure to enforce policies which were intended to prevent racial and religious profiling by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers; and/or other unlawful customs, policies and/or practices.

9. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Department's mass use of excessive force engulfed downtown San José in toxic chemical agents and caused chaos and panic as police discharged explosive Flashbang and Stinger grenades into the crowd, shot people with impact munitions, and used clubs and hands to beat demonstrators and push them

1 to the ground. The burden of these brutal tactics fell disproportionately on
2 demonstrators and observers with disabilities, who receive little or no notice or
3 opportunity to comply with any police orders before the police subjected them to
4 excessive force. In fact, demonstrators and observers were brutalized even as they
5 informed officers of their disabilities and attempted to comply with police instructions.

6 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 10. This action seeks damages and injunctive relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This
8 Court has jurisdiction over the action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. It has
9 supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

10 11. Venue properly lies within this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). The named
11 defendants perform their official duties in this District, and the events and omissions
12 giving rise to plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District.

13 12. Plaintiffs M. MICHAEL ACOSTA; JOSEPH CAÑAS; LESLIE VASQUEZ;
14 PETER ALLEN; SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT; YESSICA RILES; JOSÉ GUSTAVO
15 FLORES RODRIGUEZ; ALEX LEE; JOSÉPH MALDONADO; CINDY CUELLAR;
16 MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH; and MEGAN SWIFT have each filed administrative
17 claims with the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, in compliance with California Government Code §
18 910 et seq. All of the claims have been denied or have been deemed denied because they
19 have been pending for more than 45 days.

20 **III. INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

21 13. Pursuant to Local Rule 3-2(e), this action is properly assigned to the San José
22 division of this Court.

23 **IV. PARTIES**

24 **A. PLAINTIFFS**

25 **1. Organization Plaintiffs**

26 14. Plaintiff NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
27 COLORED PEOPLE OF SAN JOSÉ/ SILICON VALLEY (hereafter, NAACP) is a
501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works on issues related to equal access to education,
voter empowerment, criminal justice, police misconduct, health equity, and economic
growth for People of Color. The NAACP's mission is to secure the political, educational,

1 social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination
2 and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. NAACP's constituents engage in
3 public protest in San José on the issues NAACP is concerned about, including
4 institutional racism and police brutality, and wish to continue to do so in the future, but
5 they are not able to participate in public protests in San José without fear of unlawful,
6 racially discriminatory policing, excessive force, and arrest without probable cause.
7 Defendants' actions interfered with the NAACP's constituents' rights to assembly and
8 speech. NAACP plans to assist in and participate in similar events to the late May – early
9 June, 2020, protests in the future, on its own or in conjunction with others, and is fearful
10 that the same unlawful police actions in response to these and similar protests of
11 institutional racism and police brutality will be repeated absent injunctive relief to
12 prohibit the San José Police Department's (hereafter, SJPD) practices, policies, and
13 customs that caused the unlawful action in response to the recent protests.

14 15. Plaintiff SAN JOSÉ PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER (hereafter, SJPJC), is an
15 unincorporated association and a project of the Collins Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
16 SJPJC was established in 1957 as a resource and action center for progressive activism,
17 seeking to develop and nurture the growing community of people who work to create and
18 participate in a just, peaceful, and non-violent society, one that ensures human rights for
19 all people and ensures the continuation of, and respect for, all life on earth. SJPJC serves
20 more than 50 affiliated organizations, many of whom plan and/or participate in
21 demonstrations in San José. SJPJC supported its constituent organizations in mobilizing
22 for the late May – early June, 2020, demonstrations. SJPJC's staff, volunteers and
23 constituent organizations' rights to speech and assembly were violated by the SJPD's
24 unlawful response to the demonstrations. SJPJC and its constituent organizations plan to
25 assist, plan, participate in, and hold similar events in the future, and are fearful that the
26 same unlawful police actions in response to these and similar protests of institutional
27 racism and police brutality will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the SJPD's
practices, policies, and customs that caused the unlawful action in response to the recent
protests.

2. Individual Plaintiff

1 16. Plaintiff M. MICHAEL ACOSTA is a 49-year-old San José resident of mixed
2 ethnicity who works as an engineering manager. Mr. Acosta came across the May 29,
3 2020, demonstration while running an errand near his home in downtown San José, and
4 decided to observe in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. He never expected
5 that he would lose his left eye that night, when a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
6 Officer shot him with an impact munition.

3. Class Representative Plaintiffs

7 17. Plaintiff JOSEPH CAÑAS is a 26-year-old San José resident and musician of
8 mixed ethnicity. Mr. Cañas was playing his guitar at the May 29, 2020, San José
9 demonstration, when he, too, was shot in the eye with an impact munition by defendant
10 JARED YUEN or a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer.

11 18. Plaintiff LESLIE VASQUEZ is a 32-year-old, Latinx, San José resident who
12 works as a Service Line Coordinator in the maternity and children's health division at a
13 local hospital. Ms. Vasquez attended the May 29, 2020, San José demonstration and was
14 shot in the groin, thighs and genital area by defendant JARED YUEN and/or a DOE
15 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer, and bludgeoned in the stomach by a DOE CITY OF
16 SAN JOSÉ Police Officer as she stood with her hands up.

17 19. Plaintiff PETER ALLEN is a 43-year-old white San José resident who works as a
18 Communications Specialist and is a former San José Planning Commissioner. Mr. Allen
19 was pushed to the ground and repeatedly shot with impact munitions by DOE CITY OF
20 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers at the May 29, 2020 demonstration.

21 20. Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT is a disabled, 51-year-old, white Santa Clara
22 County resident, who attended the San José demonstrations on May 29, 30, and 31, 2020
23 as a legal observer. Ms. Cartwright suffers from trigeminal neuralgia and has a brain
24 implant to treat this that runs on a battery implanted in her chest. Her right knee was
25 surgically replaced in October 2019, and her left knee also needed replacement at the
26 time of these incidents, so she was limping and following the marches in her van at
27 various times. Her van displayed a disabled placard. DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
Officers shoved Ms. Cartwright hard in the chest on May 29, shot in her right knee, left

calf and finger on May 30, and wrongfully arrested her on May 31.

1 21. Plaintiff YESSICA RILES is a 41-year-old Latinx San José resident who works as
2 a Labor and Delivery Nurse at a local hospital. Ms. Riles participated in the May 29,
3 2020, demonstration, where one or more DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers shot
4 her multiple times in the groin, pelvic region, and abdomen.

5 22. Plaintiff JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES RODRIGUEZ (hereafter, GUSTAVO
6 FLORES) is a 48-year-old Latinx San José resident who works as a commercial driver. A
7 DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot Mr. Flores in the groin and collarbone
8 when they perceived him visibly trying to warn others at the May 29 demonstration that
9 the police were about to use weapons.

10 23. Plaintiff ALEX LEE is a 25-year-old, Asian, San José resident and State
11 Assembly Member. Mr. Lee attended the May 29, 30, and 31 San José demonstrations.
12 DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers used chemical agents that impacted LEE on
13 May 29; DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers launched and struck him with a
14 grenade or chemical agent device on May 30; and DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
15 Officers wrongfully arrested him on May 31.

16 24. Plaintiff JOSEPH MALDONADO is a 33-year-old, Latinx, San José resident who
17 works as a Technology Administrator. Mr. MALDONADO was impacted by a chemical
18 agent used by DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers when he participated in the
19 May 29, 2020, demonstration.

20 25. Plaintiff CINDY CUELLAR is a 22-year-old, Latinx, recent San José State
21 University graduate. Ms. Cuellar participated in the May 29, 2020, San José
22 demonstration and a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot her in the calf muscle
23 of her leg.

24 26. Plaintiff MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH is a 30-year-old, Iranian resident of Santa
25 Cruz County who works as a chemical analyst. Mr. Naemeh attended the May 30, 2020,
26 San José demonstration. DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers shot Mr. Naemeh in
27 the shin, wrongfully arrested him, and subjected him to anti-Muslim psychological
torture and harassment.

27. Plaintiff MEGAN SWIFT is a 49-year-old, white, San José resident and

1 community organizer who participated in the May 29, 2020, demonstration. Defendant
2 STEPHEN MICHAEL CURRY and/or a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer
3 clubbed Ms. Swift repeatedly and wrongfully arrested her.

4 **B. DEFENDANTS**

5 28. Defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ (the “CITY”) is, and at all times herein
6 mentioned was, a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of
7 the State of California.

8 29. Defendant SAM LICCARDO is, and at all times herein mentioned was, the
9 elected Mayor of the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ and an authorized policymaker of the CITY
10 OF SAN JOSÉ. LICCARDO approved a city-wide 8:30 p.m. - 5:30 a.m. curfew, enacted
11 to suppress First Amendment rights of racial justice protesters without a legitimate
12 government purpose or adequate notice, causing the wrongful arrests of plaintiffs
13 SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT, ALEX LEE, and class members. LICCARDO also caused,
14 approved, acquiesced in, and/or failed to intervene to stop the constitutional violations by
15 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers against all of the plaintiffs and class members on
16 May 29, 30, and 31, 2020, and thereafter, including but not limited to the racial and
17 religious profiling, use of excessive force, wrongful arrests, and deprivation of the
18 plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights.

19 30. Defendant DAVID SYKES is, and at all times herein mentioned was, the City
20 Manager of the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ and an authorized policymaker of the CITY OF
21 SAN JOSÉ and San José Police Department. At all times relevant hereto, the San José
22 Police Department was under the direction, administration and supervision of City
23 Manager DAVID SYKES, pursuant to the San José City Charter. SYKES was
24 responsible for declaring a city-wide 8:30 p.m. - 5:30 a.m. curfew enacted to suppress
25 First Amendment rights of racial justice protesters without a legitimate government
26 purpose or adequate notice, causing the wrongful arrests of plaintiffs SHAUNN
27 CARTWRIGHT, ALEX LEE, and class members. SYKES also caused, set in motion,
supervised, directed, approved, acquiesced in, and/or failed to intervene to stop the
constitutional violations by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers against all of the
plaintiffs and class members on May 29, 30 and 31, 2020, and thereafter, including but

1 not limited to racial and religious profiling, use of excessive force, wrongful arrests, and
2 deprivation of the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights, by, *inter alia*, failing to provide
3 adequate policies, training, supervision or command of the officers assigned to the
4 demonstrations.

5 31. Defendant EDGARDO GARCIA was, and at all times herein mentioned, the
6 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Chief and an authorized policymaker of the CITY OF SAN
7 JOSÉ. Chief GARCIA caused, set in motion, supervised, directed, approved, acquiesced
8 in, and/or failed to intervene to stop his police officers' constitutional violations against
9 the plaintiffs and class members at the May 29, 30 and 31, 2020, racial justice
10 demonstrations, including but not limited to racial and religious profiling, use of
11 excessive force, wrongful arrests, and deprivation of the plaintiffs' First Amendment
12 rights, by, on information and belief, approving the use of chemical weapons and PIW at
13 the demonstrations, and failing to provide adequate policies, training, supervision or
14 command of the officers assigned to the demonstrations.

15 32. Defendant JASON DWYER is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CITY OF
16 SAN JOSÉ Police Captain, and was assigned as Special Operations Commander during
17 the events that are the subject of this complaint. DWYER caused, set in motion,
18 supervised, directed, approved, acquiesced, and/or failed to intervene to stop his
19 subordinate officers' constitutional violations at the May 29, 30 and 31, 2020, racial
20 justice demonstrations, including but not limited to the racial and religious profiling, use
21 of excessive force, wrongful arrests, and deprivation of the plaintiffs' First Amendment
22 rights, by, on information and belief, approving the use of chemical weapons and PIW at
23 the demonstrations, and failing to provide adequate policies, training, supervision or
24 command of the officers assigned to the demonstrations.

25 33. Defendant RONNIE LOPEZ is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CITY OF
26 SAN JOSÉ Police Sergeant. LOPEZ caused, set in motion, supervised, directed,
27 approved, acquiesced, and/or failed to intervene to stop his subordinate officers'
constitutional violations at the May 29, 30 and 31, 2020, racial justice demonstrations,
including but not limited to racial and religious profiling, use of excessive force,
wrongful arrests, and deprivation of the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights, by, on

1 information and belief, approving the use of chemical weapons and PIW at the
2 demonstrations, and failing to provide adequate policies, training, supervision or
3 command of the officers assigned to the demonstrations.

4 34. Defendant LEE TASSIO is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CITY OF
5 SAN JOSÉ Police Sergeant. TASSIO caused, set in motion, supervised, directed,
6 approved, acquiesced, and/or failed to intervene to stop his subordinate officers'
7 constitutional violations at the May 29, 30 and 31, 2020, racial justice demonstrations,
8 including but not limited to racial and religious profiling, use of excessive force,
9 wrongful arrests, and deprivation of the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights, by, on
10 information and belief, approving the use of chemical weapons and PIW at the
11 demonstrations, and failing to provide adequate policies, training, supervision or
12 command of the officers assigned to the demonstrations

13 35. Defendant JARED YUEN is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a CITY OF
14 SAN JOSÉ Police Officer who participated in the police conduct complained of
15 including, but not limited to, on information and belief, shooting plaintiff JOSEPH
16 CAÑAS and/or other plaintiffs and class members, and targeting for excessive force
17 persons he perceived as people of color.

18 36. Defendant STEPHEN MICHAEL CURRY is, and at all times herein mentioned
19 was, a CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer who participated in the police conduct
20 complained of including, but not limited to, clubbing plaintiff MEGAN SWIFT multiple
21 times with excessive force and wrongfully arresting her.

22 37. Defendant Officer FNU DELGADO is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a
23 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer who participated in the police conduct complained
24 of including, but not limited to, shoving plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT repeatedly
25 in the chest with excessive force despite being informed of her disability.

26 38. The individual defendants are sued in their individual capacities.

27 39. The DOE defendants include other individuals who supervised and/or participated
in the conduct complained of herein. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and therefore
allege that each of the DOE defendants is legally responsible and liable for the incident,
injuries and damages hereinafter set forth, and that each of said defendants proximately

1 caused said incidents, injuries and damages by reason of their negligence, breach of duty,
2 negligent supervision, management or control, violation of constitutional and legal rights,
3 or by reason of other personal, vicarious or imputed negligence, fault, or breach of duty,
4 whether severally or jointly, or whether based upon agency, employment, or control or
5 upon any other act or omission. Plaintiffs will ask leave to amend this complaint to insert
6 further charging allegations when such facts are ascertained.

7 40. In doing the acts alleged herein, defendants, and each of them, acted within the
8 course and scope of their employment.

9 41. In doing the acts and/or omissions alleged herein, defendants, and each of them,
10 acted under color of authority and/or under color of law.

11 42. In doing the acts and/or omissions alleged herein, defendants, and each of them,
12 acted as the agent, servant, employee and/or in concert with each of said other
13 defendants.

14 **V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

15 **A. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers responded violently to** 16 **protestors participating in demonstrations against racist police** 17 **violence.**

18 43. On May 25, 2020, Minneapolis police officers killed George Floyd, a 46-year-old
19 Black resident. One white police officer knelt on Mr. Floyd's neck for nearly nine
20 minutes while three other officers observed. Mr. Floyd died calling out for his mother and
21 begging for his life as passersby recorded. The recordings were shared on multiple media
22 platforms for all of America to witness.

23 44. In the weeks and months following Mr. Floyd's death, people across the country
24 flooded into streets demanding an end to police brutality against Black people; protesting
25 the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others by the
26 hands of police through vigils, demonstrations, and public gatherings.

27 45. In San José, demonstrators began to gather outside San José City Hall around 2
p.m. on May 29, 2020, and then marched through the streets. Some participants carried
signs denouncing the policing system that kills Black people and other people of color.
Other participants came with medical supplies, water, and aid for the demonstrators.

Finally, some, including journalists, legal observers, and passersby, simply observed the demonstration. Most of the demonstrators and observers wore masks and observed social distancing.

46. The defendants would ultimately inflict the same sort of ruthless violence on the demonstrators that the demonstrators were protesting, indiscriminately dispersing tear gas into the crowd, shooting impact munitions without justification, beating demonstrators, and detonating explosive grenades to cause panic and disorientation.



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Plaza de César Chávez |
| 2 | San Jose City Hall |
| 3 | South 4th Street |
| 4 | South 10 th Street |

B. Defendants attacked and injured Plaintiffs at the Black Lives Matter protests.

47. Plaintiffs JOSEPH CAÑAS and CINDY CUELLAR arrived separately at City Hall at approximately 2:00 p.m., intending to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and police violence. Each watched as the crowd grew from a few scattered people to around one-hundred demonstrators, chanting their support for the Black Lives Matter movement and denouncing police brutality. The crowd marched from City Hall toward Highway 101, where some demonstrators continued protesting and repeated their chants. Demonstrators safely exited the highway area and made their way back downtown, where organizers had publicized a rally with speakers in

front of City Hall.

1 48. Reverend Jethroe Moore II, President of NAACP, attended the demonstration to
2 meet with CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Chief of Police EDGARDO GARCIA with the intent to
3 help coordinate dialogue between protesters and the police. EDGARDO GARCIA and
4 Rev. Moore arranged for the meeting over the phone. However, when Rev. Moore
5 arrived, he could not find EDGARDO GARCIA anywhere and neither did the CITY OF
6 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers

7 answer his request to notify
8 EDGARDO GARCIA of Rev.
9 Moore's arrival.

10 49. Instead, as the
11 demonstrators peacefully
12 marched toward City Hall, CITY
13 OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers,
14 on orders from defendant JASON
15 DWYER, formed a line behind
16 the demonstrators, at E. Santa
17 Clara and 8th Streets, and another



Image 1. Demonstrator Khennedi Meeks, crying, feeling disappointed and helpless to stop the violence.

18 line of police, including officers on foot, on motorcycles and in vehicles, blocked the
19 marchers' way at E. Santa Clara and S. 7th Streets.

20 50. Blocked by the police line, the plaintiffs and other demonstrators stopped
21 marching. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers moved to surround and kettle⁵ them.
22 Plaintiffs did not see, hear, or perceive any unlawful or dangerous activity that would
23 warrant this police action or the police use of force that ensued. There was no
24 justification for defendant DWYER's decision that the demonstration constituted an
25 unlawful assembly.

26 51. Rev. Moore watched as CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers aggressively
27

⁵“Kettling” refers to a military or police tactic in which military or police box in a crowd on all sides in a confined space.

1 assembled and became concerned for the safety of the young people in the crowd. He
2 instructed the people at the front of crowd—those closest to the police formation—to
3 kneel before the law enforcement officers and pray. Several people did as Rev. Moore
4 suggested. This was ineffective in deescalating the police response.

5 52. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers aimed their weapons at the
6 demonstrators and began to strike and jab protesters with batons in their faces, chest, and
7 abdomen. The police show of force quickly escalated to using chemical weapons, impact
8 munitions and explosive flash-bang grenades and stinger grenades.

9 53. Rev. Moore witnessed one DOE defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer
10 grab a young woman by her legs from her kneeling position, exposing her undergarments
11 and body to the crowd. He saw another young woman fall as she attempted to stand and
12 move away from the aggressive forward movements of the police. But as Rev. Moore
13 attempted to help her, CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers pushed them both down.
14 DOE defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers then jabbed Rev. Moore in the ribs
15 more than once. Two demonstrators helped extricate Rev. Moore from the kettle as the
16 police closed tighter around the crowd.

17 54. Rev. Moore sat outside of the enclosing police circle to gather his breath and
18 strength enough to leave downtown. However, before Rev. Moore could stand to leave,
19 the police launched chemical weapons into the crowd. Rev. Moore could not see or
20 breathe for several minutes, and suffered from wheezing for months afterward.
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1 55. Plaintiff JOSEPH CAÑAS had been playing his guitar while marching, and
2 continued to play while kettled by the police. As he was standing, peacefully playing the
3 guitar about 5 p.m., he heard an announcement from the police, but could not make out
4 the words. Suddenly, defendant JARED YUEN or a DOE defendant CITY OF SAN
5 JOSÉ Police Officer shot Mr. Cañas in the eye with an impact munition, causing searing
6 pain and permanently damaging his vision.

7 56. The impact caused Mr. Cañas to collapse to the ground in the middle of the street.
8 No CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers came to Mr. Cañas' aid or summoned aid for
9 him. Other demonstrators picked him up, gave him first aid, and helped him get home.

10 57. Plaintiff CINDY CUELLAR watched the defendants shoot impact munitions into
11 the crowd while she standing in front of City Hall. She saw the munitions hit
12 demonstrators and cause them to fall to the ground. Some demonstrators scrambled in
13 horror and attempted to run away from Defendants.

14 58. Ms. Cuellar saw a CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shoot a journalist she knew
15 with a munition. Ms. Cuellar started to go to her friend's aid, but a DOE defendant CITY
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Image 2. Mr. Cañas on the ground after impact being tended by other civilians.



Image 3. Ms. Cuellar's bleeding left calf

OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot her, too, causing a white hot, excruciating pain in her left calf. The impact and pain sent her tumbling toward the ground.

59. Other demonstrators caught Ms. Cuellar before she hit the ground. A demonstrator applied disinfectant to Ms. Cuellar's wound, which had immediately bruised and swelled. No CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer came to Ms. Cuellar's aid or summoned aid for her.

60. As Ms. Cuellar sat to tend to her wound, she witnessed CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers cover their faces with gas masks, and then shoot rounds of

14 tear gas and explosive Stinger grenades and/or flash-bang grenades into the crowd. It became so frightening that Ms. Cuellar decided she needed to go home, as she would not be able to run from the munitions the police were shooting into the crowd. Walking on her injured leg made the wound bleed heavily.

18 61. Plaintiffs LESLIE VASQUEZ and YESSICA RILES, sisters, also went to the May 19 29, 2020, San José demonstration to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George 20 Floyd, systemic racism and police violence, arriving around 4 p.m. When the police 21 arrived in the civic center area, the sisters became separated in the crowd.

22 62. As Ms. Vasquez walked toward E. Santa Clara and S. 7th Streets, she saw police 23 were shooting a young woman with impact munitions. When Ms. Vasquez tried to help 24 the woman, defendant JARED YUEN or a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer 25 shot her in the groin at close range with an impact munition.

26 63. Another DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer hit Ms. Vasquez in the stomach

NEWS > CALIFORNIA NEWS

On fourth day of protests, Newsom tells demonstrators: "Your rage is real. Express it."

His approach — a sharp contrast to Trump's — come after a weekend full of unrest across California



SAN JOSE — MAY 29: Protesters put their hands in the air as police walk in their direction during a protest decrying the police killing of George Floyd in downtown San Jose on Friday, May 29, 2020. (Randy Vazquez / Bay Area News Group)

By **MAGGIE ANGST** | mangst@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

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Image 4. Ms. Vasquez with her hands up

with his baton multiple times and pushed her, even though she put her hands up.

64. Ms. Riles walked toward S. 7th Street looking for her sister, Ms. Vasquez, when she heard shooting. At the intersection of E. Santa Clara and S. 7th Streets, she saw Ms. Vasquez standing in front of the police line with her hands up.

65. Ms. Riles put her hands up too in a gesture of "Don't shoot", and crossed the street, intending to get her sister and leave. But then, without warning, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

Police Officer took aim at and shot her, too, in the abdomen with an impact munition. Ms. Riles heard multiple shots and felt searing pain as the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot her in the groin, pelvic region and abdomen, repeatedly, and other officers shot people around her.

66. No CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers came to Ms. Vasquez' or Ms. Riles' aid or summoned aid for them.

67. Defendants failed to give clear warnings before using force against the plaintiffs. Ms. Riles first heard the police give an amplified dispersal order after they had already shot her and multiple others. Other plaintiffs did not hear or could not make out an order.

68. Plaintiff GUSTAVO FLORES participated in the May 29, 2020, demonstration to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and police



Image 5. Ms. Riles' bruises.

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violence. Shortly after 5:00 p.m., Mr. Flores walked in the direction of Mexican Heritage Plaza with other demonstrators, when their path was blocked by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers who had formed a line in the area of E. Santa Clara St. between 8th and 9th Streets.

69. Mr. Flores was near the front of the crowd when he heard a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer tell the other CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers, softly, “Get ready to shoot!” Defendants did

not make any announcement or warning to the crowd. Mr. Flores tried to warn the other demonstrators, walking down the front line of demonstrators suggesting they put their hands up in a gesture of “Don’t shoot!”, to show they were unarmed did not pose a threat. But before Mr. Flores reached the end of the line, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot him in the groin and testicle with an impact munition.

70. Mr. Flores fell to the ground as a result of being shot. As he stood up, he saw that the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer was reloading his gun. Mr. Flores tried to walk away, limping from his injury. Someone in the crowd warned Mr. Flores that the officer was aiming at him again. When Mr. Flores turned to look, the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot him in the left collarbone with another impact munition.

71. Mr. Flores saw CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers shoot other people who, like him, were doing no wrong and presenting no threat.

72. No CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers provided or summoned aid for Mr. Flores.

73. SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT attended the May 29, 2020, demonstration as a legal observer to support the participants' right to protest for racial justice.

74. At E. Santa Clara and 7th Streets, Ms. Cartwright observed CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers shooting impact munitions into the crowd of demonstrators, and officers throw two people, including a young teen girl, to the ground by police and beat them with batons. Ms. Cartwright attempted to take photographs to document and discourage this police use of force, but CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer FNU DELGADO or a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shoved her in the chest very forcefully with his hands. Ms. Cartwright told the officer that she had a brain injury, but he shoved her twice more, almost knocking her off her feet.

75. Ms. Cartwright suffers from trigeminal neuralgia, a chronic pain condition that was being treated with neurostimulator devices implanted in her head which are powered by a battery implanted in her chest. The area where Officer Delgado struck Ms. Cartwright is where the battery is located, and she had to later have her medical team check to make sure the wire leading to the neurostimulators was intact.

76. Plaintiff JOSÉPH MALDONADO went to the May 29, 2020, San José demonstration to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and police violence, arriving after the police had blocked Santa Clara at 7th Street. Mr. Maldonado observed only peaceful demonstrating - nothing that would justify the use of chemical weapons - but noticed that the police put on gas masks.

77. Mr. Maldonado heard no warning before DOE defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers launched a chemical agent, most likely teargas, into the crowd. The gas felt like it slapped Mr. Maldonado in the face. He experienced an intense burning sensation like no pain he had ever experienced before: "like a thousand needles hitting your eyeballs at once."

78. Mr. Maldonado ran, and a stranger gave him some water to rinse his eyes. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers did not offer decontamination or any other form of aid.

79. At 6:15 p.m., the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Department moved its line of officers to 5th and Santa Clara. At 6:30 p.m., they began to use "flashbang grenades" and

“OC Blast Stinger grenades”⁶ on the crowd, grenades that explode with a very loud bang and bright flash of light, and are designed to cause panic and chaos. These grenades can cause temporary or permanent hearing loss, burns, and impact injuries. The Stinger grenades also contain pepper spray and release rubber pellets indiscriminately in all directions.⁷

80. Plaintiff M. MICHAEL ACOSTA tried to go shopping on May 29, 2020, but discovered that both Walmart and Target were closed. As he was driving back to his residence in downtown San José, he became aware that a large demonstration was going on in response to the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd. Mr. Acosta realized that this was a historic event and wanted to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and to document the demonstration. He parked at his building and walked around taking photos and video with his cell phone over an approximately five block area. He observed that the demonstration was peaceful.

81. But unbeknownst to Mr. Acosta, around 7 p.m., a reported white supremacist deliberately drove a grey SUV into the crowd, hitting two people near 3rd and E. Santa Clara and sending demonstrators running and screaming. CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers shot impact munitions at the vehicle, which broke the windshield, and arrested the driver.

⁶The San Jose Police Department’s “Special Operations division is equipped with DEFTECH 1095 / CTS 9594 OC Blast Stinger Grenades. These are hand-thrown less lethal grenades that utilize OC powder and/or stinger balls and a ‘flashbang’ (startling light & concussive sound effect) to disperse a crowd. The blast is sufficient to project the rubber balls and chemical agents in a 50-foot radius, all around the point of impact such that anyone in the vicinity could be struck or affected. The device is 175 decibels loud at approximately 5 feet. It contains 8 grams of flash powder and approximately 4.2 grams of OC Powder.” Garcia, *supra*, at 106. SJPD’s Special Operations also carries, and used at the events at issue herein, the Def Tech Low Noise Flash Device or Flashbang. “These devices are used to temporarily disorient anyone around it by producing blinding flash of light and an intensely loud “bang”. This device contains 12 grams of flash powder resulting in 6-8 million candelas and 175 decibels at approximately 5 feet.” *Id.* at 107.

⁷ Amnesty International, *USA: THE WORLD IS WATCHING - Mass Violations By U.S. Police Of Black Lives Matter Protesters’ Rights* 1, 24 (2020), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/2807/2020/en/>; see also International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO) and Physicians for Human Rights, *LETHAL IN DISGUISE - The Health Consequences of Crowd-Control Weapons* 1, 85 (2016) <https://www.inclo.net/issues/lethal-in-disguise/> last accessed March 7, 2021.

82. As Mr. Acosta walked home on E. Santa Clara between 3rd and 4th Streets, he



Image 7. Impact munition circled in red heading towards Mr. Acosta.

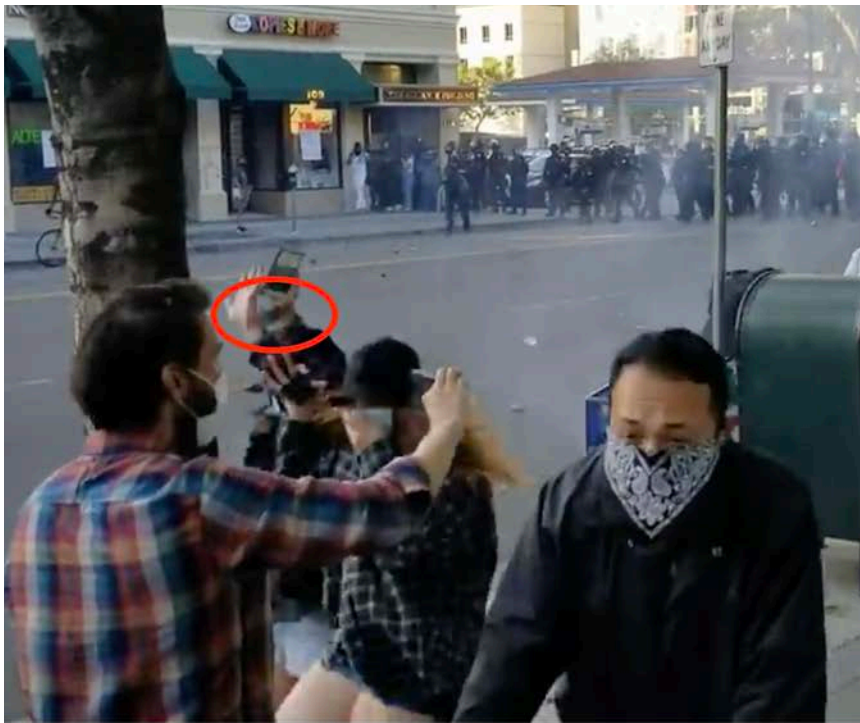


Image 8. Impact munition circled in red right before hitting Mr. Acosta.

saw the grey SUV abandoned on the corner of 3rd Street. This was the SUV that had struck people a short time earlier and one or more people pushing a burning dumpster into it.

83. Mr. Acosta was not sure how to get onto 3rd Street safely, and the police line was blocking the way to 4th Street. Suddenly, DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers threw exploding “flash-bang” and/or Stinger grenades nearby, and the crowd began to run.

84. At approximately 7:10 p.m., without warning, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer

shot Mr. Acosta in the eye with an impact munition. Mr. Acosta instantly lost all vision and fell to one knee. The next few moments were the most terrifying of his life; he

1 remained on the ground,
2 unable to see, while
3 listening to explosions
4 and people rushing by.
5 No CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
6 Police Officers came to
7 Mr. Acosta's aid or
8 summoned medical aid
9 for him.

10 85. Fortunately,
11 demonstrators dragged
12 Mr. Acosta to safety.
13 They bandaged a
14 bleeding laceration above
15 his eye and helping him
16 into his nearby residence.
17 Vision returned to his
18 right eye, but not his left
19 eye which was the one
20 that had been hit.



Image 9. Mr. Acosta's eye after the initial eye surgery but before the enucleation surgery.

21 86. A friend took Mr. Acosta to the hospital later that night, where he learned that the
22 munition had caused a severe ruptured globe injury, as well as multiple fractures to the
23 surrounding orbital of his left eye. The laceration on his face also required stitches.

24 87. Mr. Acosta had to be transported to a different hospital for immediate eye surgery
25 to try to repair the rupture. However, vision in his left eye could not be restored.
26 Eventually, Mr. Acosta had to undergo further surgery to completely remove his eye
27 globe as a result of being shot by the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer.

88. As local media covered the defendants' violent reaction to the demonstration,
additional San José residents began to arrive to aid the demonstrators, but they, too, were
met with CITY OF SAN JOSÉ police violence.

1 89. Plaintiff MEGAN SWIFT heard about the police violence and went to find the
2 May 29, 2020, demonstration at the Plaza de César Chávez in downtown San José in
3 order to bring aid in support of the racial justice demonstrators. She brought a book bag
4 filled with water and first aid materials, including gauze and gloves.

5 90. When she arrived between 8:30 and 9 p.m., Ms. SWIFT observed a crowd of
6 mostly young people, chanting and holding signs, while some passersby observed from a
7 distance. Suddenly, DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers charged the crowd with
8 guns and/or launchers raised, while throwing explosive flashbang and/or OC Blast
9 Stinger grenades into the crowd. The mood abruptly shifted to panic and the
10 demonstrators began to scatter.

11 91. At this point, Ms. Swift noticed CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers form a line
12 with batons held crosswise from the bodies, and march toward her. The police yelled
13 “Move” at the demonstrators while simultaneously pushing Ms. Swift and others back
14 with their clubs. Ms. Swift tried to comply by stepping back, but defendant STEPHEN
15 MICHAEL CURRY #4700 and/or DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers stepped
16 out of the police line multiple times to strike Ms. Swift hard in two-handed blows with
17 his club.

18 92. A nearby demonstrator yelled at the officer to stop hitting Ms. Swift. Defendant



Image 9. Ms. Swift’s bruising on her left arm.

19 CURRY clubbed Ms. Swift one
20 more time, and then grabbed her
21 and dragged her through and behind
22 the police line. He took her book
23 bag with force and then proceeded
24 to handcuff her with her hands
25 behind her back.

26 93. CURRY sat Ms. Swift on a
27 sidewalk away from the crowd.
After questioning her, he left her
with two DOE CITY OF SAN
JOSÉ Police Officers who were not

wearing masks. Ms. Swift was detained for approximately three hours, until after midnight.

94. Ms. Swift was never charged with any crime.

95. Plaintiff PETER ALLEN walked to the May 29, 2020, demonstration from his home, to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and police violence. Mr. Allen joined the demonstration at the Plaza de César Chávez around 8:30 p.m. and sat on the edge of the stage.

96. Mr. Allen observed that the crowd was peaceful and posed no threat to the police. Suddenly, CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers charged the demonstrators while throwing explosive flashbangs and/or OC Blast Stinger grenades into the crowd. Mr. Allen tried to back away but before he could do so, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shoved him forcefully to the ground with his baton. Mr. Allen again tried to stand and back away, but the same DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer used his baton to shove him to the ground again.

97. Mr. Allen scrambled up and jogged away from the police line. When he was about 20 yards from them, he turned to face them with his hands up in a gesture of “Don’t shoot” while backing away from them, but a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer proceeded to shoot him in the left upper thigh with an impact munition.

98. Moments later, a DOE defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot him again, this time in the left upper chest with an impact munition.

99. Plaintiff ALEX LEE also attended the May 29, 2020 demonstrations in downtown San José to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism and police violence, and to document the events on social media. Around 8 p.m. at City Hall Plaza, without warning, CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers started shooting impact



Image 10. Mr. Allen’s thigh.

1 munitions, explosive grenades and chemical agents at the demonstrators, even though
2 neither Mr. Lee nor anyone nearby was threatening the police in any way. As a result of
3 DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers' use of chemical agents, Mr. Lee suffered
4 serious difficulty breathing. As a result of DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers'
5 use of impact munitions and grenades, Mr. Lee was in fear of serious harm. He perceived
6 that the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers were trying to prevent him and others from
7 exercising their rights to protest the police killing of George Floyd.

8 100. Another anti-police violence/racial justice demonstration took place in downtown
9 San José on Saturday, May 30, 2020, and Mr. Lee again participated. That evening, near
10 City Hall, DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers again, without warning, fired
11 munitions, grenades, and chemical agents into the crowd of demonstrators.

12 101. A DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer launched and/or threw a projectile,
13 believed to be a tear gas canister or a grenade, that hit Mr. Lee's heel and ankle. This
14 caused pain, bruising, and fear. As a result of the chemical agent, Mr. Lee again suffered
15 difficulty breathing, feared serious harm from the police-fired projectiles, and felt the
16 police were trying to prevent him and others from exercising their rights to protest the
17 police killing of George Floyd.

18 102. Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT also attended the May 30, 2020, San José
19 demonstration, as a legal observer, when DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers used
20 chemical agents against her and the demonstrators. Ms. Cartwright stayed in what she
21 thought was a safe spot against a wall on 4th Street by City Hall, because she was
22 physically unable to run due to her knee condition: her right knee had been surgically
23 replaced and her left knee needed replacement. Then, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
24 Officer shot at her four times in quick succession with impact munitions. Munitions
25 struck her right knee (the one that had recently been replaced), her left calf, and her
26 pinkie finger. The fourth shot whizzed by, barely missing her hip.

27 103. Plaintiff MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH went to the May 30, 2020, demonstration
in San José to protest the Minneapolis Police murder of George Floyd, systemic racism
and police violence against Black people. Mr. Naemeh was wearing Muslim prayer
beads, a gift from his mother. He arrived at about 2:30 p.m. near City Hall, and took

1 photos as a small crowd gathered. Around 5:30 p.m., Mr. Naemeh marched to the library
2 with the other demonstrators. Some of the demonstrators engaged in a die-in, lying down
3 on the ground for a couple of minutes. There were speakers and chanting, conveying their
4 message against police violence and racism.

5 104. At about 6:30 p.m., CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers blocked the intersection
6 of E. Santa Clara and 4th Streets with a line of officers, increasing tension so that police
7 and demonstrators began yelling at each other. Mr. Naemeh walked backward on the
8 sidewalk away from the police with his hands up, but a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
9 Officer shot him in the shin just below his knee with an impact munition.

10 105. Mr. Naemeh tried to take cover and walked between the buildings back to 4th and
11 San Fernando, but the line of police came down and blocked the street at that location
12 and began shooting. Mr. Naemeh walked away and continued looking for the friend who
13 was giving him a ride home

14 106. At 2nd and San Fernando Streets, Mr. Naemeh came upon a small group of
15 demonstrators and walked with them to the Plaza de César Chávez. Suddenly, a large
16 group of CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers charged toward them on foot and
17 motorcycles. Mr. Naemeh and others ran, but DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers
18 came from all directions, surrounding the demonstrators so that they could not leave.
19 They then tackled and arrested Mr. Naemeh along with about thirty to forty other people
20 at around 8:30 - 9 p.m.

21 107. DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers told Mr. Naemeh that he was the
22 person responsible for throwing frozen water bottles and that they had caught this on
23 video. Mr. Naemeh had not thrown anything and denied this, but the DOE officers told
24 him that he was going to jail for six months. When Mr. Naemeh provided his
25 identification, a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer asked him how to pronounce
26 his name. Mr. Naemeh said to call him Reza (short for Mahmoudreza). Another DOE
27 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer came up and photographed him. Mr. Naemeh did not
see the police take anyone else's photograph, so this felt like an act of intimidation. The
officers continued to talk about Mr. Naemeh throwing frozen water bottles and that he
would be going to jail, seeming to single him out as a ringleader. Once the police were

1 ready to transport the arrestees, they handed Mr. Naemeh to another DOE CITY OF SAN
2 JOSÉ Police Officer, who looked at his identification and called him “Mohammed”. Mr.
3 Naemeh corrected him, saying, “It’s Reza.” The DOE officer smirked, and another DOE
4 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer repeated, “Mohammed”. Mr. Naemeh was placed on
5 a bus and taken to a stadium parking lot, where he was put on a different bus.

6 108. On the second bus, DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers or Santa Clara
7 County Sheriff Officers took Mr. Naemeh’s face mask off without his consent. He was
8 forced to remain in an enclosed space, caged in the back of the bus, with about ten other
9 people, most of whom were not wearing masks. Finally, after approximately three hours
10 in custody, Mr. Naemeh was given a citation and placed in the back of another vehicle
11 with six other people, none of whom were wearing masks. Public health officials have
12 warned against remaining in enclosed areas in close quarters with other people without
13 face masks as this greatly increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

14 109. Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Department personnel proceeded to drive Mr.
15 Naemeh and the other arrestees to the parking lot of the Great Mall in Milpitas, CA,
16 where they were released after 11:30 p.m., when no public transit was running.

17 110. Mr. Naemeh was never charged with any crime.

18 111. On May 31, 2020, defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ imposed an unlawful city-wide
19 8:30 p.m. – 5:30 a.m. curfew. The 8:30 p.m. curfew was declared by San José City
20 Manager defendant DAVID SYKES, approved by San José Mayor defendant SAM
21 LICCARDO and CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Chief defendant EDDIE GARCIA, and
22 announced at approximately 5:30 p.m. that same day, Sunday May 31. The curfew
23 remained in effect until June 4, 2020.

24 112. The curfew was enacted by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ policymakers LICCARDO,
25 GARCIA and SYKES with the intention to unlawfully suppress First Amendment rights
26 by purporting to ban all political protest in the evening hours, during a time when
27 thousands of people sought to express their opposition to racially discriminatory police
28 violence.

113. Defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ’s curfew violated the First Amendment’s
prohibition on laws restricting speech by entirely suppressing all demonstrations

1 occurring after 8:30 p.m., when the CITY had other, less restrictive, lawful means to
2 prevent any actual or imminent violence.

3 114. Moreover, to satisfy First Amendment requirements, a curfew must both be
4 narrowly tailored and allow for ample alternative channels of communication. Defendant
5 CITY OF SAN JOSÉ's curfew was not narrowly tailored and did not allow for ample
6 alternative channels of communication. Less burdensome means for preventing violence
7 were readily available by employing traditional legal methods.

8 115. Defendants' curfew also violated the fundamental constitutional right of freedom
9 of movement by imposing restrictions on the plaintiffs' and class members' freedom of
10 movement that were not narrowly tailored.

11 116. Defendants failed to provide sufficient notice of the curfew before enforcing it.
12 The curfew was only announced three hours before its start, and it was not adequately
13 publicized. This inadequate notice deprived plaintiffs SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT, ALEX
14 LEE, and class members of their Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment right to due process.

15 117. Despite hobbling from her injuries of the preceding night, plaintiff SHAUNN
16 CARTWRIGHT went to the May 31, 2020, San José demonstration at approximately
17 6:30 or 7 p.m. to distribute a legal hotline number to demonstrators and again serve as a
18 legal observer. She was wearing a green "legal observer" hat and a face mask to protect
19 her and others from COVID-19. Plaintiff ALEX LEE also attended the May 31, 2020,
20 demonstration.

21 118. At about 8:30 p.m., Ms. Cartwright, Mr. Lee, medics, and journalists were
22 peacefully talking on the sidewalk, when DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers
23 threatened them with arrest telling them that they were going to be made examples of and
24 were going to jail for violating the curfew. Ms. Cartwright explained that she was a legal
25 observer and that others were medics and journalists. Ms. Cartwright, Mr. Lee, the
26 medics and journalists went on to observe the police, and once they returned around
27 11:30 p.m., the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers arrested Ms. Cartwright, Mr.
Lee, and the others.

119. A DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer told Ms. Cartwright to get into a
police van, but she could not step up into the van because of her injuries from being shot

1 the previous night, so DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers had her sit in a patrol
2 car with two officers who were not wearing masks. The officers drove her to the SAP
3 Center, where she was forced to sit in a bus with two other people who were not wearing
4 masks for 30-60 minutes.

5 120. The police then processed Ms. Cartwright, and handed her off to Santa Clara
6 County Sheriff's Office personnel to transport her. The Santa Clara Sheriffs dropped Ms.
7 Cartwright off in the parking lot of Eastridge Mall at 1 a.m., with no way to get home,
8 and despite the still ongoing curfew. Ms. Cartwright was never charged with any crime.

9 121. Mr. Lee on the other hand was taken to the Great Mall in Milpitas, CA, and
10 dropped off in the parking lot, similarly after public transportation had stopped running.
11 Mr. Lee was never charged with any crime.

12 122. The CITY OF SAN JOSÉ and its police neither provided nor summoned medical
13 aid for any of the plaintiffs they had shot with impact munitions or subjected to chemical
14 weapons on May 29, 30, and 31, 2020.

15 123. None of the plaintiffs presented a threat or engaged in any conduct justifying any
16 use of force by the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers at any time.

17 124. The force of the munitions knocked the plaintiffs and class members off their feet
18 and/or otherwise restricted their freedom of movement by stopping them in their tracks
19 and causing injuries. People who were trying to disperse or back up in compliance with
20 police orders were as likely to be shot as people who stood still. Clouds of chemical
21 agents prevented plaintiffs and other assembled persons from escaping. Others were
22 temporarily stopped from getting to injured persons to aid them and helping them to
23 safety.

24 125. Defendants egregiously restrained and intruded upon the liberty and privacy of
25 plaintiffs by their show of force in striking plaintiffs about their bodies with munitions
26 and explosives, and assaulting plaintiffs with chemical agents in their eyes, noses and
27 mouths.

126. There was no probable cause to support Mr. Naemeh's, Mr. Lee's, Ms. Swift's, or
Ms. Cartwright's arrests, or any of the arrests of class members for curfew violations,
failure to disperse, failure to follow a lawful order of a police officer, and/or unlawful

assembly.

1 127. As a direct and proximate cause of the conduct described herein, the named
2 individual plaintiffs and the class members have been denied their constitutional,
3 statutory, and legal rights as stated herein, and have suffered general and special
4 damages, including but not limited to, mental and emotional distress, physical injuries
5 and bodily harm, loss of wages and damage to career, pain, fear, humiliation,
6 embarrassment, discomfort, and anxiety and other damages in an amount according to
7 proof.

8 **C. Defendants' excessive force impeded each of the plaintiffs' ability to**
9 **continue exercising their First Amendment rights and continues to chill**
10 **their First Amendment rights.**

11 128. Each of the plaintiffs continues to desire, and possesses the intention, to peacefully
12 and lawfully assemble and express their views in opposition to police racist violence and
13 related issues in San José, but the defendants' indiscriminate and excessive use of
14 munitions, explosive grenades and chemical agents is causing them to fear that when they
15 participate in such expressive activities, the defendants will injure them again by such
16 indiscriminate, unlawful and/or excessive use of force that harmed them and other
17 persons engaged in lawful and peaceful activity on May 29, 30, and 31, 2020.

18 129. Plaintiff MEGAN SWIFT suffered sizeable and painful bruising as a result of the
19 actions of the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police, including defendant Officer CURRY. Since
20 being beaten and wrongfully arrested on May 29, 2020, she has felt nervous and scared
21 around officers. The day after her arrest, CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers contacted
22 her mother in Pennsylvania asking her mother if she knew her daughter had been
23 arrested. Ms. Swift has not lived in Pennsylvania since 1993, and had not given her
24 mother's contact information to Defendants, so this was very disconcerting and
25 intimidating, and compounded Ms. Swift's fear of the police. She is not only afraid for
26 herself, but for friends who interact with the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police. Ms. Swift is
27 upset and embarrassed that her daughters saw her injured by the police. While she still
wants to help make social change, she feels helpless and is more hesitant to participate in
demonstrations in San José as a result of Defendants' misconduct.

130. After the protest on May 29, Plaintiff LESLIE VASQUEZ went to work, but tried not to walk as she was in so much pain. Unfortunately, her job requires her to walk all over a large hospital. She usually does so easily, but the pain made walking so unbearable, that she did her best to avoid walking for about two weeks. She felt this decision impacted how she functioned at work and as a parent. Because of the location of the bruises, she was too embarrassed to tell anyone, or ask for help managing the pain. As a result, the only medication she took was Tylenol. The week after the May 29 protest, she had a gynecologist appointment, and seeing her enormous bruises, her doctor was concerned that Ms. Vasquez was being abused. This upset and embarrassed Ms. Vasquez. She avoided seeing her partner until the bruises healed, and is still uncomfortable wearing shorts or other clothing that exposes what is now permanent scarring. Ms. Vasquez feels scared that this happened just because she was trying to help someone. As a result of defendants' misconduct, she is hesitant to attend San José demonstrations or be around police.

131. Plaintiff JOSÉPH MALDONADO has suffered from anxiety, tension, and difficulty sleeping as a result of the police violence on May 29, 2020, and his performance at work has suffered. Mr. Maldonado lives in the downtown area where the police violence occurred, and going to his usual grocery store or even just leaving his house triggers his anxiety and memories of the experience of being teargassed. He has only attended one other demonstration since then, and



Image 11. Ms. Vasquez's bruising on one of her inner thighs.

1 when the group started marching, Mr. Maldonado became so anxious that he had to step
2 out. He stood to the side because he didn't feel safe. As a result of Defendants'
3 misconduct, Mr. Maldonado distrusts police and feels they are dangerous to him.

4 132. After his arrest on May 30, 2020, plaintiff MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH was
5 worried that he might be infected with COVID-19 as a result of the DOE CITY OF SAN
6 JOSÉ Police and/or Santa Clara County Sheriffs' acts of removing his mask and
7 unlawfully detaining him for an extended period under conditions likely to spread
8 COVID-19. He had to quarantine himself and undergo testing, and could not go into the
9 laboratory where he worked as a chemical analyst for two weeks. He suffered a bleeding
10 wound, bruising, pain and disability as a result of being shot. The shooting, wrongful
11 arrest, and Islamophobic profiling and harassment deeply affected him and caused him
12 continuing psychological trauma.

13 133. Plaintiff M. MICHAEL ACOSTA remained in severe pain over the month after
14 the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shot him in the eye. Doctors advised him
15 that he was at risk for sympathetic ophthalmia of his right eye, which could result in
16 complete blindness. Mr. Acosta ultimately had to have his left eye enucleated – surgically
17 removed – as a result of the severe injury caused by being shot with an impact munition
18 by a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer.

19 134. Mr. Acosta missed weeks of work after he was shot. After having the surgery to
20 remove his eye on July 1, 2020, he is no longer in pain, but struggled to adjust to his new
21 monocular, impaired vision, and to the trauma of being shot by the police and losing a
22 part of his body. In November, 2020, Mr. Acosta was fitted with a prosthetic eye for his
23 eye socket. He experiences continuing numbness on the left side of his face, which is a
24 constant reminder of the fact that his eye is missing.

25 135. The loss of his eye, emotional trauma, and reduced vision have impacted every
26 aspect of Mr. Acosta's personal and professional life. At first, he could not leave the
27 house by himself. He is now starting to be more independent, but has particular difficulty
at night. His impaired vision precluded him from driving until very recently, which was
extraordinarily inconvenient given his continuing need to see doctors for his injuries. For
example, a follow-up medical appointment with the ophthalmologist involved more than six

1 hours round trip on public transportation unless a friend was available to drive him. Due
2 to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Santa Clara County public health orders, each
3 time Mr. Acosta was forced to take public transportation for such a long trip, he had to
4 then quarantine himself for two weeks from his small social “bubble”. In February, 2021,
5 Mr. Acosta began to try driving again but only in daylight and good weather. Driving is
6 very challenging and he feels very nervous, and still cannot drive at all at night. Mr.
7 Acosta has a demanding position at Apple, and work, too, has been a struggle.

8 136. Before he was shot, if Mr. Acosta became aware of a protest nearby in his
9 neighborhood of downtown San José, he would want to see what was going on and
10 potentially observe and document as he did on May 29, 2020. Now, if he is out walking
11 and hears the sound of a protest, he feels uncomfortable and immediately heads to the
12 safety of his home.

13 137. Plaintiff JOSEPH CAÑAS was struck in the eye with the impact munition as well,
14 leaving him with a black eye and blurred vision. Over the following days he had
15 continued pain, and although this gradually eased, his vision continued to be impaired.
16 Mr. Cañas has trouble reading, viewing lighted screens, adjusting to brightness, and
17 experiences flashes, floaters and issues with depth perception and peripheral vision with
18 his left eye. This vision impairment is permanent and he must now wear glasses which he
19 never needed before. The glasses are helpful, but do not completely alleviate the
20 problems caused by being shot in the eye.

21 138. Mr. Cañas still feels strongly about police racism and violence and would like to
22 express his views through street demonstrations. But, since he was shot, he has not been
23 as active in demonstrations because he experiences anxiety about the police injuring him
24 again. He knows from experience that even if he is being peaceful, he can still pay a price
25 for being in the crowd. If he does attend a demonstration, he is always looking over his
26 shoulder.

27 139. Mr. Cañas moved out of San José after the May 29 incident in large part because
he felt anxious about police retaliation. After he was shot, his name and photograph
appeared in the San José Mercury News, and he found out that he was mentioned on a
CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police private Facebook page that has been exposed as a forum for

1 racist and anti-Muslim hate speech by current and former CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
2 Officers.⁸ On the Facebook page, a recently retired CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer,
3 Steve Wilson, seems to be referring to Mr. Cañas in a publicized post which called Mr.
4 Cañas an “idiot” who deserved to have his eye injured, and referred to the demonstrators
5 as “trash”.⁹ This caused Mr. Cañas considerable anxiety.

6 140. Plaintiff GUSTAVO FLORES, too, had his life upended by Defendants’ act of
7 intentionally shooting him in the groin, genitals and collarbone in retaliation for warning
8 other protestors that the police were preparing to shoot them. Mr. Flores was shocked
9 when the police shot not only him, but others in his vicinity, including an elderly woman
10 and a young boy.

11 141. Mr. Flores suffered severe bruising, and continuing pain and disability that only
12 gradually improved over the following months. He struggled with everyday activities
13 such as lifting things, doing chores, or getting groceries.

14 142. The injuries Defendants caused prevented Mr. Flores from working and earning
15 his regular full-time income for months. Mr. Flores, a tow truck driver, was unable to
16 work from May 30, 2020, until approximately June 22, 2020. He then returned to work
17 part time even though he was not completely healed. He needed the income to pay basic
18 living expenses but could only work part-time due to his continuing serious shoulder and
19 groin pain.

20 143. There is still a hard, painful lump in Mr. Flores’ testicle.

21 144. Defendants’ violent actions shook Mr. Flores to the core and made him much
22 more hesitant to express advocacy against white supremacy and for changes in policing.

23 145. Plaintiff PETER ALLEN suffered severe bruising to his leg, chest, and rib area as
24 a result of Defendants’ violence. He had to stay off his feet for a few days after May 29,
25 2020. The bruises lasted for a month, and Mr. Allen still feels some pain when walking.

26
27 ⁸Charlie Paulsen, *Racism and Hate Behind the Blue Wall: Exposing Secret Law Enforcement Facebook Group*,
Noteworthy – The Journal Blog (Jun. 26, 2020), <https://blog.usejournal.com/racism-and-hate-behind-the-blue-wall-exposing-secret-law-enforcement-facebook-groups-6cf23a596a98>.

⁹*Id.*



Image 12. Ms. Cartwright's knee.

146. Since being shot by Defendants on May 29, Mr. Allen feels apprehensive to participate in demonstrations in San José. When he pushed himself to attend another rally at City Hall in San José, he found that when he walked past the street where he was shot, his leg began to throb and he experienced anxiety. In fact, whenever he finds himself at the Plaza de César Chávez his heart rate goes up and he has flashbacks of the police charging and shooting him on May 29.

147. Mr. Allen has beautiful memories of the Plaza de César Chávez, one of San José's oldest parks, which he considers the heart of the city. It was the site of his first date with his wife. They were married in the nearby Cathedral Basilica of

14 St. Joseph, and took wedding photographs in the Plaza with the cathedral tower in the
15 background. Mr. Allen remembers seeing this same tower when he was being shot. It
16 really upsets Mr. Allen that his beautiful memories of this park are now tarnished by the
17 police violence and that he will no longer be able to fully enjoy Plaza de César Chávez
18 because of the negative emotions and memories associated with the May 29, 2020, police
19 violence.

20 148. Mr. Allen continues to be a part of civic life and does not like letting defendants'
21 actions get in the way of expressing himself and his values, yet the trauma of having been
22 brutalized on May 29 gives him pause.

149. Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT incurred multiple physical injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of Defendants' violence. This has made her daily activities such as driving, hearing sounds, and seeing police officers difficult. Ms. Cartwright dreads going to bed because she wakes up, startled, repeatedly throughout the night. Every time Ms. Cartwright leaves her house, her leg shakes, she breathes heavily and starts hyperventilating. Her trigeminal neuralgia requires that she not express herself through her facial muscles, but the PTSD causes her to use these muscles, triggering excruciating pain. Ms. Cartwright must struggle to hold back her tears and emotions to avoid unbearable pain in her face.

150. Ms. Cartwright now has a permanent scar on her right knee where she was shot. Seeing this is extremely upsetting as it reminds her of the pain and Defendants' wrongful actions towards her.

151. Ms. Cartwright still wishes to attend demonstrations, but feels traumatized by the violence, wrongful arrest, and other mistreatment Defendants inflicted on her on May 29,



Image 13. Ms. Cartwright's knee.

30, and 31, 2020, and must overcome this in order to exercise her First Amendment rights.

152. For at least a month after she was shot, the bruises on Plaintiff YESSICA RILES' abdomen and pelvis were tender, and it was difficult and painful for her to breastfeed and care for her baby. As a result of the police violence, she had trouble sleeping, was restless, tearful, and often felt uneasy for an even longer time.

153. Ms. Riles is afraid to express her views by attending demonstrations as a result of being shot on May 29, although she has overcome this to attend one demonstration that had little police presence. Ever since May 29, 2020, when Ms.

Riles sees police officers, her heart rate goes up and she experiences anxiety. Just the

1 thought of that day causes Ms. Riles to feel sick to her stomach. For example, the sound
2 of loud fireworks on July 4th and New Year's Eve brought back the memory of the police
3 violence, causing Ms. Riles to experience anxiety and difficulty sleeping.

4 154. For Plaintiff ALEX LEE, being arrested and experiencing the CITY OF SAN
5 JOSÉ Police Officers' violent use of chemical weapons and impact munitions on himself
6 and the peaceful demonstrators around him on May 29, 30, and 31, 2020, had long lasting
7 impacts. Even after his difficulty breathing, pain and bruising subsided, the traumatic
8 experiences of those three nights continue to haunt him. Although Mr. Lee has attended
9 some other demonstrations since then, he feels triggered and apprehensive when he sees
10 police, because he remembers how the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers reacted to
11 the demonstrations with anger and punitive aggression, evidently intending to suppress
12 his and others' rights to demonstrate to express their outrage over racist police killings.
13 He tries to avoid being near the police, and does not stay as long as he would have prior
14 to the May 2020, police misconduct. He has lost trust in CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
15 Officers to keep him safe and uphold his constitutional rights.

16 155. Plaintiff CINDY CUELLAR's calf injury continued to hurt for more than two
17 weeks after the incident. Walking was difficult, and she needed help doing ordinary life
18 activities that involved standing, such as showering and cooking.

19 156. The May 29, 2020, police misconduct was draining for Ms. Cuellar physically,
20 psychologically and mentally, and being physically unable to participate in the
21 subsequent demonstrations over the following two weeks was frustrating.

22 157. Ms. Cuellar has a permanent scar now reminding her that the police shot her.

23 **D. Defendants targeted Black, Indigenous, and other people of color**
24 **when using excessive force to break up the crowd.**

25 158. Defendants targeted the May 29-31 demonstrations for excessive force and
26 imposition of a curfew because the message of the demonstrations was focused on police
27 racist killings of Black people. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that the CITY OF SAN
28 JOSÉ Police have never used the amount or level of excessive force used against the May
29 29, 30, and 31 protests, against any San José demonstration that was not focused on
30 police killings of Black people and other people of color.

159. Defendants targeted people of color for wrongful arrest. According to the CITY, of 176 total arrests related to the demonstrations on May 29 – June 2 and 5, 2020, only 34, or 19.3%, were of Whites, whereas 96 or 54.5% were Latinx, and 46 or 26%, other people of color¹⁰. In contrast San José is only 32.8% Latinx and is 26.7% White¹¹.

160. YESSICA RILES saw a DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer repeatedly strike her sister LESLIE VASQUEZ with a baton, and when a White woman asked why they were targeting people of color instead of her, the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer hit her sister, who is Latina, harder with the baton. At the same time, there was a Muslim woman wearing a hijab to the left of Ms. Vasquez. The White woman was still asking the DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers why they were targeting people of color when those officers then arrested the Muslim hijabi woman.

161. Moreover, the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Department has a well-documented history of discriminatory policing, failing to adequately address the behavior that precipitates discriminatory policing, and fostering a culture of white supremacy.

162. Defendants have long stopped, cited, and arrested people of color at considerably disproportionate rates. In 1999, SJPD was found to stop Black and Latinx drivers at high rates relative to census population data for the city: Latinx drivers represented 31% of the population and 43% of people stopped, while Black people represent 4.5% of the population and 7% of the people stopped by SJPD.¹²

163. From 2013-2016, in an analysis of the 80,000 traffic and pedestrian stops, Black drivers were 9 times more likely, and Latinx drivers 3.4 times more likely, than white drivers to be stopped by SJPD, and 2 times and 1.7 times, respectively, more likely to be searched. In pedestrian stops, the disparities persisted for Latinx people.¹³

¹⁰ Edgardo Garcia, *Memorandum: Police Department Preliminary After Action Report for the Public Protests, Civil Unrest, and Law Enforcement Response From May 29 — June 7, 2020* 1, 122 (September 4, 2020), <https://sanjose.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8769493&GUID=3ED4A6F5-F069-4E7F-BADE-99421D9991B3>.

¹¹ City of San José, Fact Sheet: Community Profile, <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/planning-building-code-enforcement/planning-division/data-and-maps/demographics/fact-sheet-community-profile> (last visited Dec. 6, 2020).

¹² American Civil Liberties Union, *Police and Community React to San Jose Traffic Stop Data* (Dec. 18, 1999), <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/police-and-community-react-san-jose-traffic-stop-data>.

¹³ Michael R. Smith, Jeff Rojek, Robert Tillyer & Caleb Lloyd, *San Jose Police Department Traffic and Pedestrian Stop Study* 1, 3 (2017).

164. The most recent FBI data, from 2018, reveals that despite Black people making up only three percent of the San José population, they are *three times* more likely to be arrested by SJPD compared to White people¹⁴.

165. In 2020, Racial Identity Profiling Act (“RIPA”) data demonstrated the SJPD still has racially discriminatory ticketing practices for infractions—Latinx people are 2.2 times and Black people are 6.6 times more likely to receive a citation than their White counterparts, more than 20 years after community advocates raised the alarm over SJPD’s original stop data study.¹⁵ This data confirms that SJPD has not adequately addressed its harmful practice of targeting people of color and that SJPD’s discriminatory policing persists.

166. In 2013, the San José Independent Police Auditor (IPA) recommended that the “Field Training Officer (FTO) Handbook to include better instruction and guidance about how recruits should interact with people of color¹⁶.” While the SJPD revised their FTO Handbook in response to this recommendation, the IPA determined that they have “continuing concerns and found the revisions to be *woefully inadequate*¹⁷.” In 2019, the IPA again recommended that the SJPD evaluate its FTO program, and specifically categorized “Improper Behavior” as an area of concern¹⁸. In its analysis, the IPA wrote:

“...the FTO and a recruit stated that two detained Hispanic males were directed to sit on the curb for *their comfort* and not to exert control. In another encounter, an FTO and recruit pulled over a Black bicyclist for riding without a reflective light at night. At the end of this encounter, the bicyclist asked why he was ordered to throw his bicycle on the ground. The FTO’s response included self-initiated references to Black Lives Matter and Hands Up-Don’t Shoot. This resulted in the bicyclist alleging that the officers engaged in bias-based policing. Given the FTO’s many years of experience, one

¹⁴Melanie Woodrow, *Data Analysis: Black people 4x more likely to be arrested than white people in Bay Area*, ABC 7 News (Jun. 12, 2020), <https://abc7news.com/police-arrests-bay-area-systematic-racism/6243588/>.

¹⁵Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, *Cited for Being in Plain Sight: How California Polices Being Black, Brown and Unhoused in Public* (2020), https://lccrsf.org/wp-content/uploads/LCCR_CA_Infraction_report_4WEB-1.pdf.

¹⁶Interactive Dashboard of All IPA Recommendations (1993 to Present), <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/appointees/independent-police-auditor/ipa-recommendations> (last visited Mar. 9, 2021).

¹⁷*Id.*

¹⁸Office of Independent Police Auditor - City of San José, *supra*, at 29.

would presume that an explanation could have been provided that did not reference these polarizing terms associated with Black men.¹⁹

1
2 167. In 2020, a private SJPD Facebook group called “10-7ODSJ” was exposed as a
3 platform for white supremacist racism within the department. William Rockmiller, a
4 retired SJPD officer, posted publicly about Black Lives Matter, describing its supporters
5 as “*racist idiots*,” “*un-American*” and “*enemies*” that the police “swore an oath
6 against.”²⁰ He condemned any of his friends who support BLM and stated, “*Fuck*
7 *BLM*.”²¹ Current CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer, Mark Pimental posted, “*Black*
8 *lives don’t really matter*.”²² Rockmiller also posted about a Los Angeles Muslim woman,
9 whose hijab, a head covering, was pulled off by a male cop. His post drew comments
10 from current SJPD officers, including Pimental who said, “*Hell, I would have pulled it*
11 *over her face*.”²³ Retired officer Michael Nagel posted, “*I say re-purpose the hijabs into*
12 *nooses*”, with a smile emoji.²⁴ Nagel also posted a chilling image of a “Sharia Barbie” --
13 a woman wearing a hijab with a black eye and bruises. ²⁵

14 168. Defendant EDGARDO GARCIA, then SAN JOSÉ’s Chief of Police, purported to
15 be “shocked” and condemned these latest revelations about racism and Islamophobia in
16 the SJPD,²⁶ but organizations such as Plaintiff NAACP- San Jose/Silicon Valley,
17 journalists, advocates, and citizens have issued complaints and reports of racist behaviors
18 and culture in the SJPD for years or decades.

19 169. GARCIA said he would move to terminate officers who made racist comments or
20

21
22 ¹⁹*Id.*

23 ²⁰Charlie Paulsen, *Racism and Hate Behind the Blue Wall: Exposing Secret Law Enforcement Facebook Group*,
24 Noteworthy – The Journal Blog (Jun. 26, 2020), <https://blog.usejournal.com/racism-and-hate-behind-the-blue-wall-exposing-secret-law-enforcement-facebook-groups-6cf23a596a98>.

25 ²¹*Id.*

26 ²²*Id.*

27 ²³*Id.*

²⁴*Id.*

²⁵Jason Green, *San Jose police officers’ racist Facebook posts exposed by blogger*, S.J. Mercury News (Jun. 26, 2020) <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/26/san-jose-police-officers-racist-facebook-posts-exposed-by-blogger/>; see also Paulsen, *supra*.

²⁶Jesse Gary, *‘I was shocked’ SJPD Police Chief says after racist social media posts from officers surface*, KVTU FOX 2 (Jun. 29, 2020), <https://www.ktvu.com/news/i-was-shocked-sjpd-chief-says-after-racist-social-media-posts-from-officers-surface>.

posts,²⁷ but so far, no terminations have been reported.

170. In 2018, a Muslim SJPd officer of Lebanese-American heritage sued the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, alleging years of discriminatory harassment from other officers based on his race, national origin, and/or religion since September 11, 2001.²⁸ This officer alleged, *inter alia*, that fellow officers suggested on multiple occasions that he was a member of ISIS or a terrorist, and that when he complained, his superiors in SJPd retaliated against him, for example with a disciplinary writeup.”²⁹

171. Further, it appears that CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers were unnecessarily panicked prior to the May 29, 2020 demonstration in part due to information their department passed on to them that GARCIA and other high-ranking officers should have known to be unreliable. In the days leading up to the May 29 protest, the SJPd received briefings from the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) which parroted unsubstantiated secondhand reports.³⁰ In its After Action Report, the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ admitted that this NCRIC information “contextualize[d] the mindset of the officers in the days leading up to and throughout the civil unrest.”³¹ A 2012 Senate investigation of fusion centers, like NCRIC, determined that they provided intel of “uneven quality — oftentimes shoddy, rarely timely, sometimes endangering civilians’ liberties and Privacy Act protections, occasionally taken from already-published sources, and more often than not unrelated to counterterrorism.”³²

E. Defendants discriminated against demonstrators with disabilities by subjecting them to excessive force when they are unable to move due to their disability, failing to provide clear and consistent directions with an

²⁷*Id.*

²⁸Jason Green, ‘*Racism problem*’: Muslim SJPd officer suing city, department, Bay Area News Group (Sep. 24, 2018), <https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/09/24/muslim-sjpd-officer-sues-city-department-over-racism-problem/>.

²⁹*Id.*

³⁰Jennifer Wadsworth, *BlueLeaks Hack Suggests Bad Intel Fueled SJPd’s Violent Response to Recent Protests*, San Jose Inside (Sept. 15, 2020), <https://www.sanjoseinside.com/news/blueleaks-hack-suggests-bad-intel-fueled-sjpd-violent-response-to-recent-protests/>.

³¹Garcia, *supra*, at 34.

³²Permanent Subcommittee of Investigations, United States Senate, *Federal Support for and Involvement in State and Local Fusion Centers* 1 (Oct. 3, 2012), <https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/10-3-2012%20PSI%20STAFF%20REPORT%20re%20FUSION%20CENTERS.2.pdf>.

opportunity to comply, and failing to ensure that demonstrators have a safe route of egress from protests.

1
2 172. Defendants routinely fail to provide reasonable accommodations for people with
3 disabilities to equally participate in constitutionally protected free speech during
4 demonstrations. Further, they fail to provide reasonable modifications to their orders such
5 that a person with a disability will have the same opportunity to comply and/or escape
6 brutal force.

7 173. In a recent report, the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ was found to be the only major city
8 within the United States to govern without an Office of Disability Affairs and the CITY
9 OF SAN JOSÉ Police Department wholly fails to track any data regarding disability
10 status and accommodations.³³

11 174. During each day of the Black Lives Matter demonstrations, Defendants failed to
12 communicate orders to disperse, including instructions for doing so, warnings about
13 imminent use of force, and declarations of unlawful assemblies. When Defendants have
14 communicated orders, they were inaudible to most people in and near the demonstrations.
15 The insufficient orders placed Plaintiff CARTWRIGHT and SJPJC Director Michele
16 Mashburn at great risk of harm due to their disabilities.

17 175. SJPJC Director Michele Mashburn lives with multiple disabilities and chronic
18 health conditions that limit her daily life activities and uses an electronic wheelchair for
19 mobility. On May 29, 2020, Ms. Mashburn left her downtown apartment to join the
20 demonstrations using her electronic wheelchair. Ms. Mashburn intended to join her
21 friends participating in the demonstration, but when she approached the corner of 4th and
22 Santa Clara Streets she saw the heavy police presence and decided not to continue
23 forward. The sheer number of police surrounding the crowd was dangerous for her,
24 because there were no clear paths for her to maneuver her chair in the event of an
25 emergency. Ms. Mashburn could hear indiscernible announcements from Defendants
26 from where she observed. Being unable to decipher what the police were saying also
27 made Ms. Mashburn weary of going into the crowd toward her friends. Instead, she sat

³³Tiffany Maciel, *Juvenile Justice Involved Youth with Disabilities: An Epidemic of Misunderstanding*, 1,8 (2020).

1 out and watched the demonstration from the sidelines rather than being able and free to
2 participate in the anti-brutality demonstrations.

3 176. When Defendants began to deploy impact munitions, Ms. Mashburn saw impact
4 munitions fly into multiple directions around her, even on the sidelines. Ms. Mashburn
5 could see that Defendants were not exercising any restraint with who they were shooting
6 and how, which made things especially dangerous for Ms. Mashburn in a wheelchair. She
7 retreated home and seldom left her apartment in the days following to even go to work,
8 because the police presence—given their extreme violence—was too dangerous with her
9 disability.

10 177. Similarly, on May 30, 2020, Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT tried to stay
11 back against a wall near City Hall on 4th Street while Defendants indiscriminately
12 deployed chemical weapons into the crowd. She could not outrun the chemicals due to
13 her disability. Defendants aimed at Ms. Cartwright as she attempted to make herself
14 smaller and hide, and shot her four times in quick succession with impact munitions as if
15 she were a sitting duck. The munitions struck her knee replacement and other parts of her
16 body.

17 178. In another instance, on May 29, 2020, Ms. Cartwright, who attended the protest as
18 a legal observer, attempted to take photos of the Defendants' treatment of other
19 demonstrators at E. Santa Clara and 7th Streets. Defendants approached her, and one
20 DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer attempted to stop Ms. Cartwright from
21 recording by forcefully shoving her in the chest. Ms. Cartwright told the officer she had a
22 disability, but the officer shoved her twice more anyway and almost knocked her to her
23 feet.

24 179. Ms. Cartwright endured significant trauma to her body. Her leg turned purple from
25 thigh to ankle, swelled, and the alignment of her artificial knee was affected. As a result,
26 Ms. Cartwright had to use crutches and undergo physical therapy. Because a DOE CITY
27 OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officer shoved Ms. Cartwright in the chest despite being warned
that she had a brain condition, she had to have her neurosurgeon team check whether the
wire had broken.

F. Defendants participate in a culture that glorifies and encourages violence and discrimination.

1
2 180. During her detention, Plaintiff SWIFT saw a group of CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police
3 Officers take a picture to send to their boss in order to show how much fun they were
4 having. She also overheard the officers making jokes about George Floyd’s death. CITY
5 OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers around the area she was detained did not wear masks,
6 despite the fact that they were engaging with the public during a pandemic.

7 181. Defendant JARED YUEN was captured on video shouting “Let’s get this
8 motherfucker” and “Shut up, bitch” to a young woman who asked him a question. Yuen
9 appeared visibly excited and eager to shoot demonstrators. When a protestor said “Fuck
10 you”, Yuen could be seen on the video to rush forward and shoot impact munitions out of
11 anger, and not because the use of force was necessary or reasonable. However, in
12 response to widespread outcry over YUEN’s behavior, defendant Chief GARCIA stated
13 publicly, *inter alia*, “He’s a good kid and a good cop.”³⁴

14 **G. CITY OF SAN JOSÉ officials made a number of false and misleading**
15 **statements to the public and media about the May 29 – June 7, 2020,**
16 **demonstrations and the actions of CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers.**

17 182. For example, the After Action Report the CITY released emphasizes that SJPD
18 had received reports of violence at other demonstrations around the country in a tone that
19 is clearly exaggerated. One demonstrably false statement in the Report is the claim that
20 SJPD received bulletins “in the days leading up to May 29th, 2020”, which stated that a
21 Federal Security Officer at the Federal Building in Oakland was murdered during a
22 protest and implies that this was related to the George Floyd protests.³⁵ (The federal
23 security officer was killed on the evening of May 29, not prior to May 29, so SJPD could
24 not have received such reports; moreover, federal authorities have acknowledged that the
25 crime was committed by an individual linked to the “Boogaloo Boys” far-right white
26

27 ³⁴Robert Salonga, *Let’s get this motherf—ker’: San Jose officer benched after viral protest comments*, The Mercury News, May 31, 2020, <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/05/31/lets-get-this-motherf-ker-san-jose-officers-viral-protest-comments-draw-wide-condemnation/>.

³⁵Garcia, *supra*, at 34.

supremacist movement, and was not related to the George Floyd protests.)³⁶

183. The CITY released only three selected, edited excerpts from the SJPD body camera footage to the public, rather than releasing all of the body camera footage. In particular, the CITY withheld the body camera footage of the most serious excessive force incidents.

184. The After Action Report also contains a highly misleading summary of the injuries sustained by protesters.³⁷ This summary is based only on the few protester injuries that the police documented in their reports, plus one additional high-profile injury that was reported in the media. Since CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers failed to summon medical aid for any of the plaintiffs herein, for example, none of their injuries are included in these numbers. In fact, the report lists the number of injuries to protesters on May 29 as only nine, but the report also states that officers expended approximately 246 40mm foam baton rounds, 200 OC/pepper spray rounds, 100 37mm foam baton rounds, 2 beanbag rounds, 30 stinger grenades, 13 flashbangs, and 45 baton strikes on May 29 alone.³⁸ These facts show that far more than nine people, and far more than the thirteen named individual plaintiffs herein, were injured.

185. While GARCIA accused rioters of causing “millions of dollars” in property damage, private business reported about \$160,000 in vandalism and theft, and the CITY estimated only \$120,000 in damages.³⁹ The largest cost, according to the CITY’s damage estimates from May 29 to June 13, was the amount the CITY paid to deploy 816 police, seven firefighters, and four non-sworn employees.⁴⁰

186. Defendants’ acts were willful, wanton, malicious, and oppressive, and done with conscious disregard and deliberate indifference for plaintiff’s rights and safety, justifying an award of punitive damages.

187. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendants described herein,

³⁶Maria Dinzeo, *Two Charged in Murder of Oakland Federal Officer During Protests*, Courthouse News Service (Jun. 16, 2020), <https://www.courthousenews.com/two-charged-in-murder-of-oakland-federal-officer-during-protests/>.

³⁷Garcia, *supra*, at 119-121.

³⁸*Id.* at 102-108

³⁹Wadsworth, *supra*.

⁴⁰*Id.*

1 plaintiffs have been denied their constitutional, statutory and legal rights as stated below,
2 and have suffered general and special damages, including but not limited to, pain,
3 suffering, humiliation, emotional distress, fear, anxiety, disabilities, medical and related
4 expenses, lost wages, damage to career, and other damages in amounts according to
5 proof.

6 188. Plaintiffs have incurred, and will continue to incur, attorneys' fees and costs in
7 amounts to be determined according to proof.

8 **VI. MONELL AND SUPERVISORY LIABILITY ALLEGATIONS**

9 189. The constitutional violations alleged herein were the proximate result of decisions,
10 orders, acts, and omissions of the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ's authorized policymakers
11 including but not limited to defendants LICCARDO, GARCIA, and SYKES.

12 190. For LICCARDO, GARCIA and SYKES, this included the decision to declare a
13 curfew on May 31, which was unconstitutional as further explained below, and used as a
14 pretext to wrongfully arrest 70 people.

15 191. LICCARDO, GARCIA, SYKES, and DOE City officials caused the CITY OF
16 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers' constitutional violations complained of herein by failing to
17 provide adequate policies, training, supervision, and command of their officers assigned
18 to the May 29- June 7, 2020, demonstrations to stop the officers from engaging in racial
19 and religious profiling and harassment, use of excessive force, wrongful arrests, and
20 deprivation of First Amendment rights. This included, but is not limited to, sending
21 inadequately trained commanders and officers to the May 29 - June 7, 2020,
22 demonstrations. The CITY has admitted in its After Action Report approved by
23 defendant Police Chief GARCIA and defendant City Manager SYKES that the CITY OF
24 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers who responded to the demonstrations were inadequately
25 trained and supervised, and that the SJPD failed to call in more experienced agencies
26 through mutual aid.

27 *Much of the Department's personnel lack experience and tenure in their rank. . . . In recent years, the Department has engaged in rapid hiring which dilutes the experience pool. Most of the Department's officers have never experienced civil unrest of this type. Crowd control training has been minimal and infrequent as mass training requires time away from already depleted patrol staffing. In some instances, commanders lacked the*

*sufficient training and experience in the implementation of the [Incident Command System] as it related to crowd control.*⁴¹

1

2 *There were no patrol commanders in the field for the first two days,*
3 *resulting in a lack of continuity in communicating mission objectives and*
4 *tactical plans.*⁴²

4

5 *Special Operations commanders expressed concern that without patrol*
6 *commanders in the field, their span of control was unmanageable. . . .*
7 *...[A]t times, [Mobile Field Force] sergeants began making independent*
8 *decisions about where to move the crowd without unity in command and*
9 *full understanding of the mission.*⁴³

8

9 *While some command staff have received training in crowd control, few of*
10 *those trained were involved on the ground during the [May-June 2020*
11 *demonstrations].*⁴⁴

12 192. Defendant GARCIA and the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Department changed
13 its policies days before the May 29, 2020, demonstration to allow use of additional
14 chemical agent devices and allow use of impact munitions that it had previously
15 prohibited in crowd control situations and which it acknowledges can cause serious
16 injury or death.⁴⁵ These and other impact munitions are highly likely to cause
17 unjustified injuries when used in crowds, but GARCIA and other CITY OF SAN JOSÉ
18 Police supervisors failed to adequately train and supervise the officers supplied with the
19 dangerous munitions.

20 193. LICCARDO, GARCIA, SYKES and DOE City officials caused the CITY OF
21 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers’ constitutional violations complained of herein by equipping
22 inadequately trained officers with highly dangerous impact munitions, explosive grenades
23 and chemical weapons; approving the use of impact munitions, explosive grenades and
24 chemical weapons at the demonstrations, which resulted in such weapons being used in
25

26 ⁴¹Garcia, *supra*, at 4.

27 ⁴²*Id.* at 5.

⁴³*Id.* at 47.

⁴⁴*Id.* at 32.

⁴⁵*Id.* at 167-168, 170-172.

1 an unconstitutional, indiscriminate, racially discriminatory, unnecessary, and excessive
2 manner; failing to have adequate policies and practices for oversight of the use of such
3 dangerous weapons; and by failing to train or have an explicit policy requiring CITY OF
4 SAN JOSÉ Police Officers to intervene in and report excessive force by other officers
when they are present and observe it.

5 194. Plaintiffs further allege that the constitutional violations alleged herein were the
6 proximate result of a repeated course of conduct by members of the SJPD tantamount to a
7 custom, policy, pattern or repeated practice of condoning, ratifying and/or tacitly
8 encouraging the abuse of police authority, and disregard for the constitutional rights of
9 citizens, including the rights of the plaintiffs and class members.

10 195. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe and thereon allege that the
11 constitutional violations alleged herein were the proximate result of a custom, policy,
12 pattern or practice of deliberate indifference by defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ to the
13 repeated violations of the constitutional rights of citizens by defendant CITY OF SAN
14 JOSÉ's Police Officers, which have included, but are not limited to, the repeated use of
15 excessive force, racial and religious bias and profiling, and the repeated failure to
16 properly and/or adequately train, supervise and/or discipline officers with respect to the
17 use of excessive force, constitutional limitations on the use of force, and racial and
18 religious bias and profiling; the repeated failure by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ's high ranking
19 officials, police department managers and/or supervisors to hold officers accountable for
20 violating the rights of citizens; and/or other customs, policies and/or practices subject to
continuing discovery.

21 196. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that defendants GARCIA, DWYER, SYKES,
22 LOPEZ, TASSIO, and DOE defendants, and/or each of them, caused the violation of the
23 plaintiffs' constitutional rights as a result of their supervisory malfeasance and/or
24 deliberate indifference to the need for more or different training, supervision and/or
25 discipline of the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police personnel assigned to the subject incident,
26 including, but not limited to, defendants YUEN, CURRY, DELGADO, and the DOE
27 defendants, and each of them, to prevent the foreseeable violation of plaintiffs'
constitutional rights, as further discussed above.

VII. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

1 197. Class representative plaintiffs JOSEPH CAÑAS; LESLIE VASQUEZ; PETER
2 ALLEN; SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT; YESSICA RILES; JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES
3 RODRIGUEZ; ALEX LEE; JOSÉPH MALDONADO; CINDY CUELLAR;
4 MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH; AND MEGAN SWIFT seek class certification pursuant
5 to Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(a), Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(2), and Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(3) to pursue claims
6 for damages, injunctive, and declaratory relief on behalf of themselves and all persons
7 similarly situated.

8 **A. CLASS DEFINITION – 23(B)(2) (INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CLASS)**

9 198. The injunctive relief class is defined as all persons who have in the past
10 participated, presently are participating, or may in the future participate in, or be present
11 at, demonstrations within the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ in the exercise of their rights of free
12 speech, assembly, association, petition, and of the press, in general, and particularly as it
13 relates to protesting police violence and discrimination against people of color, and
14 observing, documenting or reporting on such protests.

15 **B. CLASS DEFINITIONS – 23(B)(3) (DAMAGES CLASSES)**

16 199. One or more of the named plaintiffs (who are indicated for each class) bring this
17 action individually and on behalf of a proposed class of all other persons similarly
18 situated pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(1), (b)(2) and (b)(3). The damages classes
19 are defined as:

20 **1. Arrest Damages Class:**

21 200. All persons present at or during the aftermath of protests regarding the killing of
22 George Floyd in the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, between May 29 and June 4, 2020, who were
23 arrested by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers on suspicion of one or more of the
24 following misdemeanors or infractions, and never convicted of a crime related to this
25 arrest: failure to obey a curfew, failure to disperse, failure to follow a lawful order of a
26 police officer and/or unlawful assembly. The Class Representatives for this class are
27 MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH, MEGAN SWIFT, ALEX LEE and SHAUNN
CARTWRIGHT.

2. Direct Force Damages Class

201. The direct force damages class is defined as all person who were present during the May 29 – June 7, 2020, anti-police violence/racial justice demonstrations in the general downtown San José area, who did not engage in any conduct justifying the defendants' use of force against them, and who were subjected to the use of force, including those who CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers hit with projectiles, struck with batons, or who were injured by chemical agents or grenades deployed by the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police at the demonstrations. The Class Representatives for this class are JOSEPH CAÑAS; LESLIE VASQUEZ; PETER ALLEN; SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT; YESSICA RILES; JOSÉ GUSTAVO FLORES RODRIGUEZ; ALEX LEE; JOSÉPH MALDONADO; CINDY CUELLAR; MAHMOUDREZA NAEMEH; AND MEGAN SWIFT.

C. RULE 23 PREREQUISITES

i. Numerosity

202. This case satisfies the prerequisites of a Rule 23 class action. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. The injunctive relief class consists of hundreds or even thousands of people. The direct force damages class consists of at least 50 or more people. The arrest damages class consists of 70-131 people. Plaintiffs do not know the identities of all of the class members.

ii. Questions of Law or Fact Prevail

203. There are questions of law and fact common to the class, in that the named plaintiffs claim that defendants' unlawful indiscriminate use of force and threats of force at the San José demonstrations described herein, were based on San José Police Department policies and orders that were unlawful and chilled their First Amendment rights, including but not limited to unwarranted use of riot weapons including impact munitions, 'flashbang' and Stinger grenades, chemical weapons, batons, and physical violence by officers with their strikes, blows or kicks against protestors who did not pose a threat to officers, and unlawful curfews targeting protestors against racism and police violence.

204. The questions of law and/or fact which predominate over any question affecting only individual members include, but are not limited to:

- 1 - Whether defendants improperly declared an unlawful assembly or assemblies,
2 without justification and without adequate sound amplification and without
3 providing directions, means, and opportunity to disperse before taking violent,
4 injurious and potentially deadly police action;
- 5 - Whether the curfew imposed was unjustified and unconstitutional;
- 6 - Whether defendants used excessive force against the crowd, without regard to
7 whether the individuals against whom force was used were engaged in conduct
8 justifying such force;
- 9 - Whether defendants routinely used impact munitions and other force against
10 demonstrators and observers even though those people were not engaging in
11 conduct justifying such force;
- 12 - Whether the officers who used force at the events in question were properly
13 trained in use of force standards and the proper use of the weapons they were
14 given;
- 15 - Whether when arresting people at these demonstrations, defendants routinely
16 subjected arrestees to prolonged detention in vehicles without all occupants
17 being masked and without adequate ventilation for COVID-19 safety;
- 18 - Whether the length of the arrestees' detention was excessive and whether it
19 was reasonable to transport them to distant malls to be released;
- 20 - Whether defendants were obligated to provide decontamination and medical
21 treatment to persons impacted by their chemical weapons, impact munitions
22 and grenades;
- 23 - Whether defendants' motivation for the unlawful assembly declarations,
24 curfew, use of force and arrests was to deprive participants of their First
25 Amendment rights;
- 26 - Whether defendants engaged in racial, content and viewpoint-discrimination;
- 27 - Whether the defendants failed to accommodate disabled demonstrators by not
providing them adequate opportunity and ability to avoid being subjected to
use of force and arrest;

- Whether these actions violated the class members' First, Fourth, and Fourteenth amendment rights and their California analogues;
- Whether these actions violated the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Did some or all of the conduct described above constitute a policy or custom of defendant CITY OF SAN JOSÉ;
- Whether any individual defendants entitled to qualified immunity on the federal claims;
- Whether any of the conduct alleged herein violated Cal. Civil Code, § 52.1;
- Whether general class wide damages are available to the Damages Classes; and
- Whether statutory damages under § 52.1 are available to the Damages Classes.

205. By declaring unlawful assemblies and a curfew, ordering officers to use highly dangerous weapons on the crowd at the demonstrations, failing to adequately train the officers given impact munitions and other dangerous weapons at the demonstrations in the use of those weapons, failing to adequately respond to accusations of racism and Islamophobia within the SJPd and failing to adequately discipline and train officers accused of excessive force, racist and Islamophobic misconduct, allowing a culture of violence, racism and Islamophobia to exist within the SJPd, and failing to adopt policies prohibiting race, religion, national origin, and viewpoint discrimination and use of excessive force. As further described above, defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the class, so that injunctive and declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the class as a whole.

206. The questions of law and fact common to the classes, which are outlined above, predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.

iii. Typicality

207. The claims of the named plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the class in that the named plaintiffs and class members claim that their First Amendment rights have been chilled by the same misconduct of defendants' unlawful curfew law and related unlawful arrests, as well as the aggressive and unwarranted use of force, including batons, impact munitions, chemical agents, and grenades. Plaintiffs seek redress for the past violations of their rights and protection to bar the repeat of those violations in the future.

1 208. Thus, the named plaintiffs have the same interests and have suffered the same type
2 of damages as the class members. The class representative plaintiffs' claims are based
3 upon the same or similar legal theories as the claims of the class members of each class.
4 Each class member suffered actual damages as a result of being subjected to one or more
5 of the violations enumerated above. The actual injuries suffered by the named plaintiffs
6 are similar in type to the actual damages suffered by each class member although the
7 severity of those injuries may vary among class members.

8 209. The class representatives will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the
9 class because they were subject to the unlawful law enforcement conduct complained of
10 herein, and have no interests antagonistic to the class.

11 **iv. Adequate Representation**

12 210. The class representatives will fairly and adequately represent the common class
13 interest. The class representatives have a strong interest in achieving the relief requested
14 in this Complaint, they have no conflicts with members of the plaintiff class, and they
15 will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

16 211. The class representatives are represented by counsel who are well-experienced in
17 federal civil rights class action litigation and are familiar with the issues in this case.

18 212. Counsel for the class representatives know of no conflicts among or between
19 members of the class, the named plaintiffs, or the attorneys in this action.

20 **v. Maintenance and Superiority**

21 213. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(1)(A), the prosecution of separate
22 actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of inconsistent or
23 incompatible standards of conduct for the defendants, thereby making a class action the
24 superior method of adjudicating the controversy.

25 214. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(1)(B), prosecutions of separate
26 actions by individual members of the classes would create a risk of adjudications with
27 respect to individual members of the class which would, as a practical matter,
substantially impair or impede the interests of the other members of the class to protect
their interests.

215. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(2), defendants have acted on grounds

generally applicable to the class.

1 216. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(3), the questions of law or fact
2 common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only
3 individual members, and this class action is superior to other available methods for the
4 fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy between the parties. Plaintiffs are
5 informed and believe, and thereon allege, that the interests of class members in
6 individually controlling the prosecution of a separate action is low in that most class
7 members would be unable to individually prosecute any action at all. Plaintiffs are
8 informed and believe, and thereon allege, that the amounts at stake for individuals are
9 such that separate suits would be impracticable in that most members of the class will not
10 be able to find counsel to represent them. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon
11 allege, that it is desirable to concentrate all litigation in one forum because all of the
12 claims arise in the same location, i.e., the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ. It will promote judicial
13 efficiency to resolve the common questions of law and fact in one forum rather than in
14 multiple courts.

15 217. Plaintiffs do not know the identities of most class members. Plaintiffs are
16 informed and believe, and thereon allege, that the identities of the arrest class members
17 are ascertainable from SJPd records. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon
18 allege, that a significant number of direct force class members may be reached by the use
19 of outreach efforts by organizations that participated in organizing the affected protests.

20 218. Plaintiffs know of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this
21 litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a class action. Liability can be
22 determined on a class-wide basis. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that defendants
23 have little or no records or evidence of any kind justifying any use of force against
24 individual demonstrators, and that defendants' only justifications for any use of force
25 against peaceful participants is based on facts which apply to all the peaceful participants
26 equally.

27 219. General damages can also be determined through use of subclasses.

28 220. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(3), class members must be furnished
with the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all

1 members who can be identified through reasonable effort. Plaintiffs contemplate that
2 individual notice be given to class members at last known address by first class mail,
3 email, cell phone outreach, social media, and efforts of organizations that organized the
4 protests. Plaintiffs contemplate that the notice inform class members of the following
5 regarding their damages claims:

- 6 a. The pendency of the class action, and the issues common to the class;
- 7 b. The nature of the action;
- 8 c. Their right to ‘opt out’ of the action within a given time, in which event
9 they will not be bound by a decision rendered in the class action;
- 10 d. Their right, if they do not ‘opt out,’ to be represented by their own counsel
11 and enter an appearance in the case; otherwise, they will be represented by
12 the named plaintiffs and their counsel; and
- 13 e. Their right, if they do not ‘opt out,’ to share in any recovery in favor of the
14 class, and conversely to be bound by any judgment on the common issues,
15 adverse to the class.

16 **VIII. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

17 **COUNT ONE – INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

18 **(First, Fourth And Fourteenth Amendments, 42 U.S.C. § 1983; California**
19 **Constitution Articles 1 §§ 2, 3, 7, 13; Cal. Penal Code**
20 **§ 835.5; Civil Code § 52.1; and Civil Code § 815.6)**

21 221. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference the preceding paragraphs of
22 this Complaint.

23 222. The Defendants engaged in repeated, widespread violations of law, as outlined
24 above, over the course of at least several nights, using excessive force against hundreds if
25 not thousands of protestors in retaliation for their First Amendment activity; imposing a
26 curfew without accommodating the right to peaceable assembly and protest; declaring
27 unlawful assemblies without adequate sound amplification and without providing
adequate notice, means and opportunity to disperse before taking aggressive police action
including the use of highly dangerous PIW, chemical weapons and explosive grenades;

1 hitting large numbers of protestors with batons, hands, grenades and/or PIW and using
2 chemical weapons on them all with unreasonable and excessive force; failing to provide
3 medical aid or decontamination to persons defendants shot and/or teargassed; unlawfully
4 arresting and detaining 70 or more people and placing detainees at great risk of exposure
5 to COVID-19 while on buses as described above; and targeting perceived people of color
6 for these civil rights violations.

7 223. The CITY, through GARCIA and the SJPD, has failed to train its officers in the
8 constitutional responses to demonstrations as revealed by the above allegations.

9 224. Without intervention by this Court, the plaintiffs, including the NAACP and
10 SJJPC and the Injunctive Relief class members, who have participated, observed or
11 documented protest activities and wish to do so in the future, particularly related to police
12 violence and racial justice, are at risk of having their rights violated in the future due to
13 the defendants' demonstrated pattern of constitutional violations. The plaintiffs have no
14 adequate remedy at law to protect the future lawful exercise of their constitutional rights,
15 and, without action by this court, will suffer irreparable injury, thereby entitling them to
16 injunctive and declaratory relief.

17 225. The Defendants have acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable to
18 the putative Injunctive Relief Class. Injunctive and declaratory relief for the class as a
19 whole is appropriate.

20 226. Defendants' policies, practices, customs, conduct and acts alleged herein have
21 resulted and will continue to result in irreparable injury to the plaintiffs, including but not
22 limited to violations of their constitutional and statutory rights. Plaintiffs have no plain,
23 adequate or complete remedy at law to address the wrongs described herein. Plaintiffs
24 intend in the future to exercise their constitutional rights of freedom of speech and
25 association by engaging in demonstrations, observation and documentation of
26 demonstrations and police actions, and other expressive activities in the CITY OF SAN
27 JOSÉ. Defendants' conduct described herein has created fear, anxiety and uncertainty
among plaintiffs with respect to their exercise now and in the future of these
constitutional rights.

227. Specifically, plaintiffs are concerned that if they participate in, observe or

document protest activities in the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ they will again be subjected to unreasonable and excessive force by CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers.

228. Plaintiffs are concerned that, when engaged in protest activities, Defendants will impose curfews without accommodating or attempting to accommodate First Amendment rights; will not provide adequate notice of such curfews or in the event unlawful assemblies are declared; will not provide adequate means and opportunity to disperse; and will again employ indiscriminate, racially discriminatory, unreasonable or excessive force, injuring and terrifying protestors.

229. Plaintiffs are also concerned that they will be wrongfully arrested and detained under conditions that increase their risk of infection with COVID-19.

230. Plaintiffs therefore seek injunctive relief from this court to ensure that plaintiffs and persons similarly situated will not suffer violations of their rights from defendants' illegal and unconstitutional policies, customs, and practices described herein.

231. Plaintiffs also seek injunctive relief in the form of an order requiring that defendants seal and destroy and records derived from the arrests of the Arrest Damages Class, including fingerprints, photographs, and other identification and descriptive information, and all information, and biological samples and information obtained from such biological samples collected from the Arrest Damages Class, and identify to the Arrest Damages Class all entities and agencies to which such information has been disseminated; and that all such disseminated records be collected and destroyed.

COUNT TWO – DECLARATORY RELIEF

232. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

233. An actual controversy exists between plaintiffs and defendants in that plaintiffs contend that the policies, practices and conduct of defendants alleged herein are unlawful and unconstitutional, whereas plaintiffs are informed and believe that defendants contend that said policies, practices and conduct are lawful and constitutional. Plaintiffs therefore seek a declaration of rights with respect to this controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202.

**COUNT THREE – 42 U.S.C. § 1983
VIOLATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS**

1 234. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
2 Complaint.

3
4 235. Plaintiffs' association with the anti-police violence/racial justice demonstrations
5 and observation and/or documentation of the police response were substantial and
6 motivating factors for the defendants use excessive force on all of the plaintiffs, and in
7 the case of CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT, NAEMEH and the Arrest Damages Class,
8 arrest them. The acts and/or omissions of the defendants, and each of them, individually
9 and/or while acting in concert with one another, chilled the plaintiffs' rights to freedom
10 of speech, expression and association, under the First Amendment to the United States
11 Constitution.

12 236. The curfew order also violated and chilled the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights.

13 237. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, the named plaintiffs, Direct Force
14 Damages Class members, and Arrest Damages class members suffered damages as
15 alleged above.

16 238. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
17 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
18 violations will recur.

19 239. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

**COUNT FOUR - 42 U.S.C. § 1983
EXCESSIVE FORCE – U.S. Const., 4th and 14th Amds.**

20
21 240. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
22 Complaint.

23 241. The acts and/or omissions of the defendants, and each of them, individually and/or
24 while acting in concert with one another, violated plaintiffs' rights to be free from
25 excessive force, under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States
26 Constitution.

27 242. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, all of the named plaintiffs and the
Direct Force Damages Class members suffered damages as alleged above.

1 243. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
2 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
3 violations will recur.

4 244. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

5 **COUNT FIVE –42 U.S.C. § 1983**
6 **WRONGFUL ARREST – U.S. Const., 4th and 14th Amds.**
7 **(By Plaintiffs NAACP, SJPJC, CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT, NAEMEH,**
8 **ARREST DAMAGES CLASS, and INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CLASS against**
9 **Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, SYKES, GARCIA, DWYER, AND DOES)**

10 245. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
11 Complaint.

12 246. There was no probable cause to support the arrests of CARTWRIGHT, LEE,
13 SWIFT, NAEMEH, and the ARREST DAMAGES CLASS. Therefore, the acts and/or
14 omissions of the defendants, and each of them, individually and/or while acting in
15 concert with one another, violated plaintiffs’ rights to be free from wrongful arrest, under
16 the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

17 247. CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT, NAEMEH, and all of the Arrest Damages Class
18 members were arrested on suspicion of misdemeanors consisting of failure to obey a
19 curfew, failure to disperse, failure to follow a lawful order of a police officer and/or
20 unlawful assembly during the protests, and were placed on buses and driven to distant
21 locations where they were released. While held on buses or otherwise detained prior to
22 their release, Arrest Damages Class members held in enclosed vehicles with people who
23 were not wearing masks, and the police removed masks from some of the plaintiffs and
24 class members. This significantly increased their risk of COVID-19 exposure because,
25 even if they had previously been similarly distanced from others during outdoor protests,
26 the risk of exposure is significantly greater in enclosed, unventilated spaces.

27 248. Defendants’ above-described conduct violated Arrest Class members’ rights to be
free from unreasonable seizures under the Fourth Amendment and under the Fourteenth
Amendment’s due process clause and the state constitutional analogues.

249. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, Arrest Damages Class members
suffered damages as alleged above.

1 250. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
2 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
3 violations will recur.

4 251. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

5 **COUNT SIX – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**
6 **EQUAL PROTECTION – U.S. Const., 14th Amd.**

7 252. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
8 Complaint.

9 253. The named and DOE unidentified defendants subjected plaintiffs, many of whom
10 are people of color, and all of whom were protesting anti-Black racist police violence and
11 in support of the movement for Black lives, to excessive force and/or unlawful detention
12 and arrest, and/or suppressed their right to freedom of speech and assembly, with
13 discriminatory motive and intent, and racial animus toward each and every plaintiff
14 individually and as a group, either because of their identity and/or because of what they
15 were protesting, and therefore violated plaintiffs’ rights under the Equal Protection
16 Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

17 254. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, all of the plaintiffs and damages
18 class members suffered damages as alleged above.

19 255. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
20 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
21 violations will recur.

22 256. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

23 **COUNT SEVEN – 42 U.S.C. § 1982**
24 **FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT – U.S. Const., 4th, 9th and 14th Amds.**
25 **(By Plaintiffs NAACP, SJPJC, ALEX LEE, SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT, the**
26 **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CLASS and the ARREST DAMAGES CLASS against**
27 **Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, LICCARDO, SYKES, GARCIA and DOE CITY**
OF SAN JOSÉ POLICE OFFICERS)

28 257. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
29 Complaint.

30 258. The curfew order violated the plaintiffs’ constitutionally protected freedom of

1 movement. “Citizens have a fundamental right of free movement, ‘historically part of the
2 amenities of life as we have known them.’” *Nunez by Nunez v. City of San Diego*, 114
3 F.3d 935, 944 (9th Cir. 1997) (internal citations omitted); *United States v. Wheeler*, 254
4 U.S. 281, 293 (1920). As discussed above, the curfew order was without lawful basis and
5 was not narrowly tailored to serve a compelling government interest.

6 259. Therefore, the acts and/or omissions of the defendants, and each of them,
7 individually and/or while acting in concert with one another, violated plaintiffs
8 CARTWRIGHT, LEE, NAACP and SJPJC’s members and constituents, and the
9 ARREST DAMAGES CLASS members’ rights to freedom of movement under the Fifth,
10 Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments.

11 260. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, CARTWRIGHT, LEE, and the arrest
12 damages class members suffered damages as alleged above.

13 261. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
14 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
15 violations will recur.

16 262. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

17 **COUNT EIGHT – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**
18 **FAILURE TO INTERVENE**
19 **(By All Plaintiffs against SYKES, GARCIA, DWYER, YUEN, CURRY, DELGADO**
20 **and DOES)**

21 263. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
22 Complaint.

23 264. During the events described above, the Defendants stood by without intervening to
24 prevent the violations of Plaintiffs’ constitutional rights heretofore alleged, even though
25 the violations occurred in plain view of numerous CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers
26 and all of the Police Defendants had the opportunity and duty to do so.

27 265. Defendants’ failure to intervene was caused in part by the CITY OF SAN JOSÉ’s,
SYKES and GARCIA’s failure to provide adequate policies and training requiring CITY
OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers to intervene in and report excessive force by other officers
when they are present and observe it.

266. The misconduct described in this Count was objectively unreasonable and was
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undertaken intentionally, with malice and knowing disregard for Plaintiffs' clearly established constitutional rights.

267. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, all of the plaintiffs and damages class members suffered damages as alleged above.

268. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such violations will recur.

269. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

**COUNT NINE – 42 U.S.C. § 1983
CONSPIRACY TO DEPRIVE PLAINTIFFS OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS**

270. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

271. Count Nine is alleged against all Defendants.

272. Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, DAVID SYKES, SAM LICCARDO, EDGARDO GARCIA; JASON DWYER; JARED YUEN; SEAN MICHAEL CURRY, OFFICER FNU DELGADO, and each of the as yet unidentified DOE defendants, acted in concert with each other and conspired by concerted action to accomplish an unlawful purpose by unlawful means.

273. EDGARDO GARCIA; JASON DWYER; JARED YUEN; SEAN MICHAEL CURRY, OFFICER FNU DELGADO, and DOE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers, and each of them, took concrete steps to enter into an agreement to unlawfully use excessive force on all Plaintiffs without notice or cause, and to detain and arrest certain Plaintiffs, knowing they lacked reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause to do so, and for the purpose of violating Plaintiffs' First, Fourth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

274. Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, SYKES, and LICCARDO took concrete steps to enter into an agreement with GARCIA, DWYER, YUEN, CURRY, DELGADO and DOES to retroactively justify and cover-up GARCIA, DWYER, YUEN, CURRY,

1 DELGADO and DOES' unwarranted use of excessive force on all Plaintiffs and to
2 unlawfully detain and arrest certain Plaintiffs for the purpose of violating Plaintiffs' First,
3 Fourth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

4 275. In furtherance of this conspiracy, DWYER, YUEN, CURRY, DELGADO and
5 DOES committed specific overt acts, misusing their police powers for the purpose of
6 violating Plaintiff's rights. They accomplished this goal by using unwarranted, excessive
7 force on all Plaintiffs, including, but not limited to, using flashbang and stinger grenades
8 to break up lawful demonstrations, shooting at individual protestors with impact
9 munitions at close range, and releasing teargas into lawful crowds without notice.

10 Defendants also unlawfully arrested certain Plaintiffs knowing they lacked reasonable
11 suspicion and/or probable cause to do so.

12 276. Defendants CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, SYKES, LICCARDO and GARCIA committed
13 additional specific overt acts, misusing their powers as high-ranking city officials for the
14 purpose of violating Plaintiff's rights. They accomplished this goal by issuing an
15 unconstitutional curfew order without adequate notice and directing DWYER, YUEN,
16 CURRY, DELGADO and DOES to enforce the order against Plaintiffs. Further, they
17 covered-up DWYER, YUEN, CURRY, DELGADO and DOES' constitutional violations
18 of Plaintiffs' rights by knowingly issuing an After Action Report which was purposely
19 misleading as to the number of injuries to protestors at the hands of DWYER, YUEN,
20 CURRY, DELGADO and DOES , and falsely claiming that they were reacting to the
21 report of a murder of a federal officer at a protest, which has since been proven to be
22 unrelated to the protests, and more notably, had not been issued prior to Defendant CITY
23 OF SAN JOSÉ Police Officers' violent actions.

24 277. Each individual named and unknown Defendant is therefore liable for the
25 violation of Plaintiffs' rights by any other individual Defendant.

26 278. As a direct and proximate result of the result of the Defendants' conspiracy,
27 Plaintiffs suffered damages as alleged above.

28 279. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

**COUNT TEN – 42 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq.
VIOLATION OF TITLE II OF THE A.D.A.**

1
2 280. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
3 Complaint.

4 281. The Americans with Disabilities Act and its implementing regulations provide that
5 “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded
6 from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a
7 public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” 42 U.S.C. § 12132;
8 28 C.F.R. § 35.149. Title II’s requirements extend to “anything a public entity does,”
9 including arrests and other law enforcement interactions. 8 C.F.R. § 35, app. B. Despite
10 these requirements, Defendants violated the ADA and its implementing regulations in
11 multiple ways.

12 282. Defendants have an affirmative obligation to make benefits, services, and
13 programs accessible to people with disabilities. § 35.150. “The general regulatory
14 obligation to modify policies, practices, or procedures requires law enforcement to make
15 changes in policies that result in discriminatory arrests or abuse of individuals with
16 disabilities.” 28 C.F.R. pt. 35, app. B. Defendants, however, have failed to make
17 reasonable modifications that will make law enforcement’s actions equally accessible to
18 people with disabilities; indeed, their responses to protests actively deny people with
19 disabilities their rights at protests.

20 283. Title II protects people with disabilities against facially neutral policies that
21 burden people with disabilities more than others, by requiring that the public entity
22 provide reasonable modifications to avoid the discrimination unless the public entity can
23 demonstrate that such modifications would result in a fundamental alteration of the
24 program. 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7); *Crowder v. Kitagaw*, 81 F. 3d 1480 (9th Cir. 1996).

25 284. Defendants’ use of teargas, pepper balls, and other chemical irritants poses a
26 significant risk of harm or death for people with respiratory and inflammatory conditions.

27 285. The lack of clear egress routes for dispersal, and barriers to egress erected by
Defendants, violate the rights of people with disabilities who are forced to risk stampedes
and trampling from other protesters, law enforcement force, and other grievous harm.

1 286. The lack of clear and consistent directions likewise puts Plaintiffs, including those
with mobility impairments, at significant risk of harm, arrest, and violence.

2 287. Defendants subjected Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT to use of force and
3 arrest because they mistake Plaintiffs' inaction, delayed action, or slowed action in
4 response to orders to disperse and other commands as a refusal to comply.

5 288. Further, Defendants' crowd management directives and other measures constitute
6 programs and/or activities under the ADA. By failing to establish crowd management
7 measures that permit protesters with disabilities an opportunity to avoid harm by police,
8 Defendants have denied those people with disabilities meaningful access to their crowd
9 management program/activity.

10 289. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C § 12133, Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
11 relief as well as damages and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

12 **COUNT ELEVEN – 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 et seq.**
13 **VIOLATION OF SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT**
(Against All Defendants)

14 290. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
15 Complaint.

16 291. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ("Section 504") and its implementing
17 regulations provide that "[N]o otherwise qualified individual with a disability . . . shall,
18 solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied
19 the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving
20 federal financial assistance . . ." 29 U.S.C. § 794. Defendants violate Section 504 in
21 multiple ways. A "program or activity" means "all of the operations of a department,
22 agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or of a local
23 government, or the entity of such State or local government that distributes such
24 assistance and each such department or agency (and each other State or local government
25 entity) to which the assistance is extended, in the case of assistance to a State or local
26 government." 29 U.S.C. 794(b)(1)(A), (B).

27 292. Section 504 regulations prohibit discrimination by a recipient of federal funds by
denying a qualified person with a disability the opportunity to participate in or benefit
from the aid, benefit, or service. 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(1)(i).

1 293. Section 504 regulations prohibit discrimination by a recipient of federal funds by
2 affording a qualified person with a disability an opportunity to participate in and benefit
3 from the aid, benefit, or service that is not equal to that afforded others. 34 C.F.R. §
4 104.4.(1)(ii).

5 294. Section 504 regulations prohibit discrimination by a recipient of federal funds by
6 affording a qualified person with a disability an opportunity to participate in and benefit
7 from the aid, benefit, or service that is not as effective as that provided others. 34 C.F.R.
8 § 104.4.(1)(iii).

9 295. Section 504 regulations prohibit discrimination by a recipient of federal funds by
10 “providing significant assistance to an agency, organization, or person that discriminates
11 on the basis of [disability] in providing any aid, benefit, or service to beneficiaries of the
12 recipients’ program or activity.” 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(1)(v).

13 296. Section 504 regulations prohibit discrimination by a recipient of federal funds by
14 utilizing “criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of subjecting qualified
15 [persons with disabilities] to discrimination on the basis of [disability].” 34 C.F.R. §
16 104.4(4).

17 297. Section 504 regulations require that recipients of federal financial assistance “shall
18 take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with their . . . beneficiaries are
19 available to persons with impaired vision and hearing.” 28 C.F.R. § 41.51(e).

20 298. Plaintiffs are otherwise qualified to participate in the services, programs, or
21 activities that are provided to individuals by Defendants. 29 U.S.C. § 794(b).

22 299. Defendants all receive federal financial assistance.

23 300. Through the acts and omissions described above, Defendants and their agents and
24 employees have and continue to violate the Rehabilitation Act and the regulations
25 promulgated thereunder by excluding Plaintiffs from participation in, denying Plaintiffs
26 the benefits of, and subjecting Plaintiffs based solely by reason of their disability to,
27 discrimination in Defendants’ services and activities in managing and regulating protests
in San Jose.

301. Defendants’ use of teargas, pepper balls, and other chemical irritants poses a
significant risk of harm or death for people with respiratory and inflammatory conditions.

1 302. The lack of clear egress routes for dispersal, and barriers to egress erected by
2 Defendants, violate the rights of people with disabilities who are forced to risk stampedes
and trampling from other protesters, law enforcement force, and other grievous harm.

3 303. The lack of clear and consistent directions likewise puts Plaintiffs, including those
4 with mobility impairments, at significant risk of harm, arrest, and violence.

5 304. Defendants subjected Plaintiff SHAUNN CARTWRIGHT to use of force and
6 arrest because they mistake Plaintiffs' inaction, delayed action, or slowed action in
7 response to orders to disperse and other commands as a refusal to comply.

8 305. Further, Defendants' crowd management directives and other measures constitute
9 programs and/or activities under the Rehabilitation Act. By failing to establish crowd
10 management measures that permit protesters with disabilities an opportunity to avoid
11 harm by police, Defendants have denied those people with disabilities meaningful access
12 to their crowd management program/activity.

13 306. As set forth above, Defendants have failed to satisfy their affirmative obligation to
14 provide reasonable modifications and auxiliary aids and services that provide equal
15 access, with or without a specific request from a person with a disability.

16 307. Defendants' failure to provide reasonable modifications was with deliberate
17 indifference and reckless disregard to the rights of Plaintiffs.

18 308. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 794(a), Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory and injunctive
19 relief as well as damages and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

20 **COUNT TWELVE – Cal. Civ. Code, § 52.1**
21 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA BANE ACT**

22 309. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
23 Complaint.

24 310. The acts and/or omissions of the defendants, and each of them, individually and/or
25 while acting in concert with one another, constituted interference, and attempted
26 interference, by threats, intimidation and coercion, with plaintiffs' peaceable exercise and
27 enjoyment of rights secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the
State of California, in violation of California Civil Code § 52.1.

1 311. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, all of the plaintiffs and damages
class members suffered damages as alleged above.

2 312. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
3 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
4 violations will recur.

5 313. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

6 **COUNT THIRTEEN – Cal. Civ. Code, § 51.7**
7 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA RALPH ACT**

8 314. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
9 Complaint.

10 315. Plaintiffs are informed and believe bias against Plaintiffs’ perceived political
11 affiliation with the protest against police violence and police racism, and bias against
12 plaintiffs’ perceived race, national origin, and/or religion, were motivating reasons for the
defendants’ above-described misconduct toward them.

13 316. Defendants’ above-described conduct violated plaintiffs’ rights to be free from
14 violence and intimidation by threat of violence because of their actual or perceived
15 political affiliation and/or viewpoint, in violation of California Civil Code § 51.7.

16 317. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, all of the plaintiffs and damages
17 class members suffered damages as alleged above.

18 318. As a result of Defendants’ wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
19 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
20 violations will recur.

21 319. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

22 **COUNT FOURTEEN – ASSAULT AND BATTERY**

23 320. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
24 Complaint.

25 321. Defendants committed assault and battery on each of the plaintiffs, by shooting
26 them with PIW, hitting, shoving, using chemical weapons and other force on them.

27 322. Said acts by defendants and/or each of them were unreasonable and excessive uses

of force.

1 323. Plaintiffs did not consent to the use of force against them and were injured
2 thereby.

3 324. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, all of the plaintiffs and damages
4 class members suffered damages as alleged above.

5 325. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
6 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
7 violations will recur.

8 326. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

9 **COUNT FIFTEEN – FALSE ARREST AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT**
10 **(By PLAINTIFFS NAACP, SJPJC, CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT, NAEMEH,**
11 **ARREST DAMAGES CLASS, and INJUNCTIVE RELIEF CLASS AGAINST**
12 **CITY OF SAN JOSÉ, SYKES, GARCIA, DWYER, AND DOES)**

13 327. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
14 Complaint.

15 328. Plaintiffs CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT, NAEMEH, NAACP and SJPJC
16 members and constituents, and the ARREST DAMAGES CLASS were arrested without
17 reasonable suspicion and without probable cause to believe that they had committed any
18 crime.

19 329. Said plaintiffs were detained for an unreasonable length of time under unsafe
20 conditions as heretofore alleged.

21 330. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, CARTWRIGHT, LEE, SWIFT,
22 NAEMEH, and the arrest damages class members suffered damages as alleged above.

23 331. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct, and the potential that such conduct
24 will recur, the Injunctive Relief Class is entitled to relief from the potential that such
25 violations will recur.

26 332. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

27 **COUNT SIXTEEN – NEGLIGENCE**

333. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs of this
Complaint.

1 334. Defendants, and/or each of them, individually and/or while acting in concert with
2 one another, owed plaintiffs the duty to use reasonable care to avoid causing foreseeable
3 injury and damage to plaintiffs during the events described in this Complaint. The above-
4 described acts and omissions of defendants breached the duty of care defendants owed to
5 plaintiffs.

6 335. In doing the acts and/or omissions as alleged herein, Defendants and/or each of
7 them, breached said duty to use reasonable care and said breach of duty caused, and/or
8 contributed to the cause, of Plaintiffs' injuries and damages as alleged in this Complaint.

9 336. Wherefore, the plaintiffs pray for relief as hereinafter set forth.

10 **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray for judgment against defendants as follows:

- 12 1. For an order certifying the classes defined herein pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 23(b)(2)
13 and (b)(3);
- 14 2. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief restraining defendants from engaging
15 in the unlawful and unconstitutional actions complained of above;
- 16 3. For a declaratory judgment that defendants' conduct complained of herein violated
17 Plaintiffs' rights under the Constitution and laws of the United States and California;
- 18 4. For past, present, and future general damages for the named individual plaintiffs,
19 Direct Force Damages Class and Arrest Damages Class members, including but not
20 limited to, pain, suffering, permanent disfigurement and/or emotional distress to be
21 determined according to proof;
- 22 5. For past, present and future special damages for the named individual plaintiffs and
23 Direct Force Damages Class and Arrest Damages Class members, including, but not
24 limited to, medical expenses, lost wages, damage to career and/or other out of pocket
25 losses to be determined according to proof;
- 26 6. For punitive damages against the individual defendants and/or each of them, for the
27 named individual plaintiffs, Direct Force Damages Class and Arrest Damages Class
members, to be determined according to proof;
7. For statutory damages and exemplary damages pursuant to Cal. Civil Code §§ 52 and

52.1, to be determined according to proof, and for a \$25,000 civil penalty per violation pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 52, for the named individual plaintiffs, Direct Force Damages Class and Arrest Damages Class members;

8. For pre- and post-judgment interest as permitted by law;
9. For attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and Cal. Civil Code §§ 52 and 52.1, and/or other authorities, to be determined according to proof;
10. For costs of suit;
11. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

X. CERTIFICATION OF INTERESTED ENTITIES OR PERSONS

Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-16, the undersigned certifies that as of this date, other than the named parties, there is no such interest to report.

XI. JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial.

Dated: March 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/S/

By: Rachel Lederman

ALEXSIS C. BEACH & RACHEL LEDERMAN, Attorneys

LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Tifanei Ressler-Moyer

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FLYNN LAW OFFICE

R. Michael Flynn

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