

Themes/Questions Emerging from Public Input to City Council

1. Call for service/dispatch
 - The 911 recording indicates that the caller said that she thought a young man may have shot himself. The dispatch was for shots fired.
 - Many members of the public believe that Ms. Lewis was the victim of a domestic dispute and that dispute triggered the 911 call.
 - What did the officers reasonably know when they arrived on the scene?
2. De-escalation
 - Why was physical contact initiated instead of using de-escalation techniques?
 - Why weren't de-escalation techniques used? [The public does not understand that some of the tactics used prior to physical contact actually were de-escalation.]
3. Use of rifles
 - Why were rifles used?
 - Why didn't Officer Ruff get rid of the rifle before dealing with Ms. Lewis since it was flopping around and hitting her in the back?
4. Patronizing/racist/sexist language
 - The choice of words with Ms. Lewis (e.g., "Act like a lady." And repeating her vernacular: "I'm fittin' to go home.") is considered by some to be offensive.
5. Excessive use of force
 - Why did three officers take Ms. Lewis down?
 - Why did the officers punch her, knee her in the back, etc.
 - Why did Officer Ruff lift her hands in the air, allegedly causing her pain?
 - Why did the officers hobble her? Use a spit hood on her?
6. Possible armed subject
 - If the officers were concerned that Ms. Lewis may have had a weapon, why did Sergeant Cervantes come out from behind the car to put hands on her?
7. Administrative Leave
 - Members of the public question why the three police officers involved in the Aleyah Lewis arrest were not put on administrative leave for some period of time. A City Council member offered up an arbitrary two weeks? Until the investigation of the incident is complete?
8. Release of Body Camera/Squad Car Camera Footage (not enough)
 - Why hasn't the Police Department released all of the body camera/squad car camera footage associated with the Aleyah Lewis arrest?
9. Release of Body Camera/Squad Car Camera Footage (too much)
 - Why did the Police Department release the body camera/squad car camera footage of the Aleyah Lewis arrest and subsequent jail interview the following day? Isn't that a violation of her 5th Amendment rights?

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND CONCERNS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE APRIL 10TH INCIDENT.
FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY.**

- Information requested about the group being selected to perform the Independent Investigation/Review of the arrest of Aleyah Lewis. Concern expressed that neither the City Council nor the public was allowed to participate in the selection of the firm.
- Demands for State's Attorney Julia Rietz to drop the charges brought against Aleyah Lewis. Concerns expressed as to why the Mayor/Council haven't recommended that the charges be dropped. (At least one Council member has asked individually for the charges to be dropped.)
- Urbana Police Department and City Staff obstruction of the Civilian Police Review Board complaint review process.
- Urbana Police Department failure to respond to complaints in the timeframe set forth in City Code.
- Address the lack of civilian oversight of the Urbana Police Department and the lack of accountability of the police to the residents of Urbana.
- Reform/redesign/expand the Civilian Police Review Board. Change from a review model to an investigative model.
- Make police complaints more accessible, transparent, and open to the public.
- Address the lack of transparency within the Urbana Police Department as an organization.
- Review and change Urbana Police Department policies dealing with use of force (last resort), chokeholds, and other uses of violence.
- Adopt the NAACP 10 shared principles.
- Join the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.
- Demilitarize the Urbana Police Department and prohibit future purchases of military style equipment and vehicles.
- Retrain and require de-escalation techniques be used by Urbana police officers.
- Reallocate funds from the police budget to address community issues such as education, mental health, substance abuse, affordable housing, and job creation.
- Concern about delays in answering FOIA requests and excessive fees associated with these requests.