



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **The Truth Behind Tire Deflation During Minneapolis Riots** **June 9, 2020**

There has been speculation regarding recent videos showing Anoka County Sheriff's Office deputies deflating tires during the civil unrest in the City of Minneapolis. An article was published by the Star Tribune on June 8, 2020 and has been cited and shared by various media groups and social media platforms. The article published did not clearly articulate the decision-making processes and overall picture of the situation.

On May 31, 2020, Anoka County Sheriff's Office personnel, along with the Minnesota State Patrol acted under the authority of the MACC (Multi Agency Command Center) at the direction of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. The command was given to disable illegally abandoned vehicles via tire deflation, which were inside the law enforcement perimeter and obstructing law enforcement operations. Two vehicles were illegally abandoned on the roadway of the bridge of S. Washington Ave. over I-35W. This procedure was done in order to preserve order, life, and safety of both the protestors and law enforcement that were present at this location.

Life safety issues were a concern due to the previous two days of civil unrest in the City of Minneapolis, as rioters had used unoccupied vehicles as weapons. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Anoka County Sheriff's Office personnel were present on the S. Washington Ave. bridge over I-35W and were actively engaged in attempting to restore order to the civil unrest of protestors and riot behaviors. To reiterate, those two vehicles were illegally abandoned on the roadway and a potential hazard that could have been used as deadly mobile weapons as seen on previous days. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota State Patrol deflated the tires of those two specific vehicles.

The Kmart parking lot location referred to in the Star Tribune article, did not involve the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. We cannot comment if those were actions taken by other law enforcement agencies or others as we simply do not know the facts of that location.