

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT (UPD) – TIMELINE: AUGUST 11, 2017

Posted September 11, 2017

The following timeline was produced by the University Police Department (UPD) in conjunction with the Office of University Counsel and shared with Deans Working Group for public dissemination. It is primarily based upon two reviews the University conducted of the planning that preceded August 11 and its response to the events of August 11. One review, conducted by an external facilitator, focused exclusively on UPD planning and response in connection with August 11. The second review was broader in scope and included members of UPD, the Office of Safety and Emergency Preparedness (OSEP), the Dean's Working Group, the Office of University Counsel, senior administrators and members of the University's Board of Visitors. This review also included participation by an external law enforcement consultant and a representative from the external safety and security firm the University has retained to review its policies and recommend enhancements going forward.

Pre-event intelligence: On Thursday, August 10, 2017, the University Police Department (UPD) sent an email indicating that Virginia State Police (VSP) intelligence indicated Alt Right would meet at Darden Towe Park (Albemarle County) at 8:00 pm on Friday, August 11, 2017 to replicate the tiki torch march.

Friday, August, 11, 2017

-3:23 pm UPD and senior University officials receive email from Provost's Office stating they had received an informal contact about a possible march on Grounds that evening. No time was indicated. The information suggested that the march would start "at a Jefferson statue (not sure which one)" and proceed off-Grounds, possibly to St. Paul's church. Information circulated among UPD command staff and senior University officials.

-3:32 pm UPD forwards email from Provost's office to officials at the Charlottesville Police Department (CPD) and Albemarle County Police Department (ACPD) for "situational awareness."

-5:40 pm UPD attempts to contact the individual that provided the information to the Provost's office.

-6:35 pm UPD receives an email from OSEP stating they made contact with the Provost contact and he had no additional information but added he had not provided this info to the police.

-7:41 pm UPD and senior University officials become aware of a social media post appearing to confirm an event, but unknown time and location. Information circulated among UPD command staff.

-7:41 pm UPD confirms staff available to monitor situation and to include other jurisdictions.

-7:43 pm UPD attempts to contact Provost's Office to see whether there were any other details available.

-7:43 pm UPD attempts to call one of the principal organizers of the Unite the Right (UTR) weekend activities to determine details.

-7:50 pm UPD emails senior University Officials with a link to the "It's Going Down" website that indicates UTR group is planning a surprise rally with torches on UVA Grounds that night.

-7:52 pm UPD shares same "It's Going Down" link with officials at CPD and ACPD.

-8:10 pm CPD calls UPD to say UTR has stated location change to "Nameless." (CPD said UTR organizer refused to give location and misunderstands that "Nameless" refers to an actual location "Nameless Field" on Grounds).

-8:15 pm UPD calls UTR organizer again and UTR organizer passes call to his "security" person. UTR security tells UPD that he believes the gathering point will be Nameless Field, but cannot confirm that location. UPD calls CPD again to clarify likely gathering location – i.e., Nameless Field. CPD confirms that he has alerted CPD shift commander in case UPD needs assistance.

- 8:30 pm UPD confirms information regarding the possible march and calls other agencies to let them know a march or rally likely will occur on or near Grounds. CPD and VSP stage near the north terrace of the Rotunda and ACPD stages near Grounds 30-45 minutes before the gathering to be on stand-by in case they are needed.

-8:50 pm UPD again speaks to UTR security and he confirms the location (Nameless Field) and time of gathering (9:30 pm) and beginning of the march at 10:00 pm. UTR security states they intend to march up University Avenue to Jefferson Statue on the north side of the Rotunda, assemble for 15 minutes, and then leave the area.

-8:51 pm UPD relays information from UTR security to officer on Grounds.

-9:10 pm The UPD Monitoring Station advises that tiki torches are being delivered to Nameless Field. [Up to this point, there has been no disclosure that the march will involve tiki torches.]

-9:15 pm UPD observes a group gathering by Jefferson statue on north side of the Rotunda.

-9:28 pm Observations indicate the UTR group numbers are increasing at Nameless Field.

-9:30 pm UPD again speaks to UTR security and he states the group numbers are fewer than what he had expected to turn out, but they nonetheless still will march at 10:00 pm. UPD security confirms that they intend to take University Avenue straight to the statue at the Rotunda and be in and out in 15 minutes.

-9:30 pm UPD positions officers for observation and monitoring: at the Rotunda, on Culbreth Road, and on McCormick Road.

-9:52 pm march begins, path monitored by UPD Officers. UPD reports group is flying drones overhead; tiki torches are lit, and group is departing from stated route. UPD calls UTR security, who is participating in the march. UPD instructs that the drones must come down; questions the route adjustment; and expresses concern that changed route means that torches will be near buildings and trees on Grounds. UTR security states "drones are down" . . . "changed route to avoid counter protesters" . . . "gotta go" and hangs up. On scene one UPD officer engages and requires that drones be landed, another responds to a need for medical assistance.

-[9:57 pm University Emergency Dept. placed on Access Control due to unrelated stabbing event in Nelson Co.]

-10:02 pm Group passes Amphitheater.

-10:04 pm Group on the Lawn.

-10:07 pm Group begins to go up Rotunda stairs.

-UTR group surrounds counter-protesters at Jefferson statue on north side of the Rotunda.

-University Official and faculty member approach statue to offer assistance to counter-protesters.

-10:16 pm Disorder is called.

-10:17 pm Law Enforcement from other jurisdictions arrive on the Rotunda Plaza.

-10:17 pm Fire resources requested in case fire breaks out.

-10:18 pm UPD Officer detains and subsequently arrests an individual.

-10:19 pm Crowd begins to disperse.

-10:19 pm UPD identifies 6 individuals with pepper spray exposure - rescue called.

-10:23 pm UPD declares unlawful assembly.

-10:26 pm UPD confirms 1 additional pepper spray exposure near flag pole, the other 6 people with exposure left the area before rescue arrived.

-10:30 pm Law enforcement begins moving remaining crowd off the plaza.

-10:34 pm Situation Clear.