DECLARATION OF CHARLES JOYNER

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby declare as follows:

1. My name is Charles Joyner. I was born on March 2, 1987.

2. I attended the marches and protests in Baton Rouge on July 10, 2016.

3. I am a member of Stand with Dignity, an organization that organizes structurally unemployed and criminalized black community in New Orleans, Louisiana. I attended the protests with Stand with Dignity and was wearing a t-shirt from this group. I also wore a green vest identifying me as a marshal. As a marshal, I was trying to coordinate between the protesters and police. At some point during the protest, my vest fell off.

4. The march to the Capitol was perfect. The police were in their regular uniforms, and even as we were leaving the Capitol, police were still very calm.

5. A group of people from the Capitol gathered by a church after the march. Then, after about a half an hour to an hour, we started marching again together. Some people tried to get into the street, but we told them to get on the sidewalk. And we all stayed on the sidewalk as the sheriff car tried to restart traffic.

6. We started moving further down the street, chanting, and we got back into the street. Then, we ran into some police in tactical gear.

7. I don't know Baton Rouge very well, but I guess we were near the freeway, and the police wanted to stop us from getting on there. They said that they didn't want us on the interstate, and that we couldn't block the streets.

8. At this point, people started getting more agitated. They weren't happy that the police were stopping our march. The police were also in riot gear, and that upset people too.

9. Then the police were on one side of the street and the protesters were on the other side. I was watching the police, and it looked like they were getting ready to do something. I wasn't with the protesters that were in the lady's yard. Instead, I was across the street from them.

10. As the protest continued and people were chanting, I kept noticing the police getting more and more tactical gear on. They added gas masks and shields. They also had more guarding their arms.

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11. At one point my eyes started to water. And people started to disperse. That’s when it started getting scary.

12. The police started saying that it was no longer a sanctioned protest and that we had to disperse. At the same time, they started closing in.

13. They had a truck with a large blowhorn that made a loud siren noise.

14. People that were trying to disperse and leave could only go one way. It didn’t make sense because they told people to go home, but they made it really hard for people to go home. They pushed people into the street.

15. As this was happening, I looked over, and one police officer was laughing. That made me really angry. There were children out there, and the situation was not even close to funny. If it were his relatives out there, I don’t think he would find the situation as funny.

16. When the police crossed the street after telling people to leave, they arrested a lot of people. They did it really fast. They just ran across the street, grabbed people, and arrested them. I didn’t see the people who were arrested do anything wrong. They were just protesting.

17. I saw about three or four people get arrested. One was a black man. As I was looking at that, I saw police officers on top of a woman, arresting her too.

18. It was a great protest. It was peaceful, and there were lots of people out. The problems began when the police stopped us from marching.

19. I came out to protest because of the video of Alton Sterling’s killing. He wasn’t doing anything wrong. He was just asking why he was being arrested. Anyone being arrested wants to know why. It wasn’t right for the officer to even take out his gun, and to kill him was just wrong.

20. This situation was scary. It is scary to know that the police can use such force and get away with it. We pay for their equipment, and they shouldn’t be able to use it on us like they did.

21. I’m still going to protest. We have the right to march, and we have the right to speak out.

Executed on this 12th day of July 2016.

[Signature]
Charles Joyner