

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Jared Goyette, Craig Lassig, Michael Shum, Katie Nelson, Tannen Maury, Stephen Maturen, and The Communications Workers of America, *on behalf of themselves and other similarly situated individuals,*

Plaintiffs,

v.

Court File No.:
0:20-cv-01302 (WMW/DTS)

**DECLARATION OF TIMOTHY
EVANS**

City of Minneapolis; Minneapolis Chief of Police Medaria Arradondo *in his individual and official capacity*; Minneapolis Police Lieutenant Robert Kroll, *in his individual and official capacity*; Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington, *in his individual and official capacity*; Minnesota State Patrol Colonel Matthew Langer, *in his individual and official capacity*; and John Does 1-10, *in their individual and official capacities,*

Defendants.

I, Timothy Evans, declare under penalty of perjury, as follows:

1. I am a freelance photojournalist who has worked for or had work commissioned by local, national, and international news publications and agencies including EPA (the European Pressphoto Agency), NurPhoto (which is distributes photos to AP and other news organizations), and *The Nation Magazine*.

2. On Friday, April 16, 2021 I was covering the Daunte Wright protests in Brooklyn Center. I began taking photographs around 7:00 P.M. outside the police precinct

building. I was wearing a press credential attached to a lanyard around my neck, and had a large PRESS sticker attached to my backpack. I was carrying two cameras – one slung on my arm and the other hanging from my neck.

3. Around 9:45, law enforcement announced an unlawful assembly and ordered protesters to disband. Shortly thereafter state troopers and other law enforcement rushed the crowd. I moved backward to try and get away from the scrum while still taking pictures. State troopers were indiscriminately tackling people and pepper spraying people.

4. As I was moving back, I looked over to my left and saw a trooper approaching rapidly. My cameras were visible and I was clearly taking photos. I was yelling “PRESS, PRESS!” this whole time. The trooper bear sprayed me and I went to my knees. I was able to take a couple more photos, then an officer ordered and tackled me to the ground.

5. The officer was sitting on my stomach and had me pinned to the ground. I told him “I’m press! I’m press!” He said “I don’t care.” He had me spin onto my stomach, after which I showed him the credential I have attached to the lanyard and said “I’m press.” He struck me in the face, directly in my goggles. He told me to shut up, ripped the lanyard off my neck, and threw it in the dirt. I again told him I’m press, and he responded, “too bad, you should have gone when you had the chance, shut the fuck up.” I told him press are exempt from the curfew, he said, “you’re a liar. Shut the fuck up.”

6. I started looking around trying to make eye contact and get the attention of other troopers who might be able to come help me. Eventually another trooper approached.

I said, "I'm press!" He said what sounded like, "shut up," then hit me in the back of my helmet and smashed the left side of my face into the dirt. Then the troopers zip tied me.

7. The first trooper picked up my credential and looked as if he would walk away with it. I begged for him to give it back, which he finally did. Then he and the other trooper sat me—ziptied, battered, and covered in chemical irritants—on the curb.

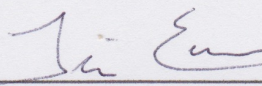
8. Eventually a female trooper came up to do wellness checks on those who had been detained. She asked if I was ok and I told her I was with the press. She asked who I worked with, then left to talk with her lieutenant. That person must have told her I could be released, because she came back and removed the zip ties. She then said, "I can escort you out but you have to leave," and she walked me outside the law enforcement perimeter that had been established.

9. I left the protests and went home. I would have stayed and continued the protests had I not been assaulted, arrested, and forced to leave the area.

10. During the evening, I witnessed other photojournalists I know being pepper sprayed and detained while state troopers photographed their personal id's and press credentials before letting them go.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.

Dated: April 16, 2021

 4.16.21

Timothy Evans