

I have been a resident of downtown Madison for the past 8 years. I don't have a problem with the use of Madison Metro busses for national guard and law enforcement staff per se, but I do have a problem with how that looks in the light of other events.

It seems law enforcement only stationed officers at the top of State St. during the protests. Law enforcement used tear gas on the 100 block of State to attempt to disperse the largely peaceful protestors, meanwhile looters operated uninhibited on the 200, 300, and beyond blocks of State St.

Downtown Madison is a grid. Could they have not merely gone to one of the side streets, and gone behind the protestors to address the looting? Why were no officers stationed along the length of State st? We have ample experience as a city with crowd control for events like Freakfest, the Women's March, etc.

At the end of the day, an event with far fewer participants than Freakfest generated far more violence and economic damage. And civilians who attempted to prevent looting were assaulted while MPD was nowhere in sight.

You have a monopoly on legal violence. Please use it better in the future.

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CLAS '12