

Timeline for Chelsea Protests and Council Action

June 4, 2020

Chelsea One World One Family

Rally in Support of Black Lives Matter

The youth spontaneously decided to march after the event

Video and photographs available on the OWOF Facebook page.

June 11, 2020

ARCY march

June 15, 2020

City Council meeting - Proposal Opposing Systemic Racism

Explanation of Chelsea Police Department Policies and Training

Public comments

Police discussion

<https://chelseami.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Bxqa8VdJ72wH#>

June 18, 2020

ARCY march

June 25, 2020

ARCY march

An assault occurred after the march.

A white, possibly intoxicated woman punched a BIPOC teen who was participating in the march. There is video of the altercation.

After she assaulted the teen, she went to her car where it is thought that she called the police. Officer Rick Cornell of the Chelsea Police Department interviewed the victim and her mother the next day. Apparently he told the teen that unless she had been murdered there is nothing that he can do and that she should expect to experience violence if she continued to protest.

June 27, 2020

Chelsea Police requested info on assault. Investigation given to Sgt. Kinsey

https://chelseaupdate.com/statement-from-chelsea-police-department/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=statement-from-chelsea-police-department

June 29, 2020

Officer Cornell placed on paid administrative leave after community members share his racist, misogynistic posts from Facebook, pending result of internal investigation.

June 30, 2020

Article on MLive regarding officer on paid leave for response to assault

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/06/chelsea-officer-on-paid-leave-after-claim-of-poor-response-to-assault-at-police-brutality-protest.html>

July 2, 2020

ARCY march

July 6, 2020

Chelsea City Council meeting

Public comments

<https://chelseami.viebit.com/player.php?hash=MGY32e8GeoN5#>

July 9, 2020

ARCY march

July 13, 2020

Public Listening Session

There were too many citizens that wanted to attend. The city Zoom account could not handle the volume and had to reschedule.

July 15, 2020

Listening Session

<https://chelseami.viebit.com/player.php?hash=c8vKQjBovN6M>

July 16, 2020

ARCY march

July 20, 2020

City Council meeting

Public comments

Staff report/police

<https://chelseami.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Xtu8IJGHEZLn>

July 31, 2020

ARCY march and sit in at CPD

NLG, Michigan Liberation and medics in attendance

Counter-protest

Police following marchers and taking extensive photographs

August 4

Complaint filed with Chief Toth regarding the behavior of him and his department at the July 31 protest march.

August 12

Council Listening Session cancelled - postponed because more people wanted to join than the City zoom license would allow.

August 13, 2020

ARCY march

NLG, Michigan Liberation and medics in attendance.

Summary from one individual: About 100 people met in Pierce Park - about 50-50 adults and youth. They were also accompanied by Members of the Michigan Chapter of the Lawyers Guild as observers and a team of experienced medics - both local and regional. Marchers started both in M52 and on the sidewalks. A speaker reported that the police said that they would not be blocking traffic for the marchers this week, so the medic cars drove in front and behind the marchers. These cars were stopped by the police and ticketed for obstructing traffic. The process took about 20 minutes and itself blocked traffic much longer than the marchers would have. The marchers continued as before to the Police Station parking lot (their route being blocked once again by another police car). Five police cars were out, one officer on a motorcycle and several on foot. The Chief was in an unmarked car. A full-size fire engine was parked on a side street by the group. There was an open mic and multiple speakers participated. Mark VanderWege introduced himself to the group as running as a write-in candidate for School Board. Two individuals - one in a police uniform and one in plain clothes - were on the Police Station roof taking pictures of the group peacefully assembled, sitting and listening to the speakers. Some of the group were drawing with chalk. About 3/4 of the way through the public mic, a group of adult protesters approached Chief Toth sitting in an unmarked car and asked him to come listen. He did. He did not speak to the group but repeated to individuals that he was just doing his job. As the group left to return to the park, a local medic stepped in front of a car that was traveling south on M52 and would have been very close to the group. The car braked quickly and the medic was given a ticket for obstructing traffic. The tickets are misdemeanors that will be fought in court. If upheld, there will be fines to pay and the universal sentiment was that funds would be raised to pay those fines

August 17

Council meeting with agenda item to acknowledge receipt of complaint against department and chief regarding police behavior on July 31

Thursday, Sept 3, 2020

Recheduled Council Listening Session

Recording:

https://chelseami.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Ag82t0IWpaB4&fbclid=IwAR05aftuLRq_feUUaP9rk-kMhw5iWE6VPlaFVN93CqvFJCKsOeqhFVzOdzU

Transcripts obtained

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/15hbyBYBIViRoTk72DIJp5oxq8CPZh76U?fbclid=IwAR38wJWjWwhITdj7Ues3ng6YHqY2mLq9zk_61PcMGq22RQpF5kd1A2uLTKA

Friday, Sept 4, 2020

ARCY March

Sept 21, 2020

Council meeting to select law firm to handle complaint regarding police conduct on July 31

Sept 24, 2020

Article regarding City Council hiring law firm

<https://thesuntimesnews.com/g/chelsea-mi/n/18101/chelsea-city-council-hires-legal-firm-investigate-complaint-against-police?fbclid=IwAR3MEOEnt5Z5UsmMD7KPILTsP00PhmMFkaCE6HcTm-gEg7Bu81N6IWRUWPM>

October 14, 2020

Council was to discuss follow-up to Listening Sessions - postponed due to uncertainty of continuing in virtual format

October 22, 2020

WXYZ News story

https://www.wxyz.com/news/teen-assaulted-during-black-lives-matter-protest-in-chelsea-says-police-failed-to-investigate?fbclid=IwAR14BXG6zgPWOYjjL5pXevihcPWvn5xhdEquZmMBKBo3Q8Nil_bVnqgpdXQ

October 25, 2020

Article regarding assault of Mya King on June 25 in MetroTimes

https://m.metrotimes.com/news-hits/archives/2020/10/22/michigan-teen-who-protested-against-injustice-was-punched-then-ignored-and-ticketed-by-police?fbclid=IwAR1ZS5oN1swEyB_nrNlIdafbOlSqBIRCUaTz1BMOTo6N8wme026ZdjvJnrM4

October 26, 2020

Council Meeting to schedule date for addressing Listening Sessions. Only discussed, no date set.

November 3, 2020

Nothing on Council Agenda to set Listening Session date. Voted on January 11. Hope to have Bruce Judge report in before then.

January 11, 2021

Council Work Session to discuss Listening Sessions. Agenda set by Mayor and City Manager. Review of Police Policies. No discussion of Listening Sessions or public statement.

January 19, 2021

Council meeting and public comment.

January 21, 2021

Article on Police Report and Work Session follow-up questions (disputing charges of police behavior to teens).

https://thesuntimesnews.com/g/chelsea-mi/n/23530/chelsea-police-december-2020-report-and-work-session-follow?utm_source=dnl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Summary of Council meeting

<https://thesuntimesnews.com/g/chelsea-mi/n/23663/chelsea-city-council-summary-01-19-21>

Mayor's statement of Ethical Guidelines

<https://thesuntimesnews.com/g/chelsea-mi/n/23607/mayor-johnson-speaks-ethical-guiding-principles-chelseas-officials>

January 25

Court session for contesting citations for protesting.

More tickets issued

January 28, 2021

Bruce Judge report officially released

https://www.city-chelsea.org/Portals/0/Complete%20Packet%2002_01_20_1.pdf