

I'm sorry y'all are out in the heat. In light of this tragedy, I want to urge people to be calm and I am calling for unity during this difficult time. Like you, yesterday, I was made aware by the State Police, and numerous other Law Enforcement officials, was made aware of the events unfolding here in Baton Rouge. I would like to express, on behalf of my wife Donna and I, express my condolences to Mr. Sterling's family. I did speak to Sandra Sterling earlier this morning, to express condolences in person. I also want you to know that this morning, I met with Colonel Mike Edmonson, as well as District Attorney Hillar Moore to discuss this situation. I have also spoken with officials at the White House, and as well as Walt Greene who is the U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, as well as Jeff Sallet, who is the Special Agent in Charge in New Orleans to make sure we move forward in a deliberate, methodical way. And in terms of developments, I want to announce that the lead agency conducting the investigation into this matter will be the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. They will be assisted by the Middle District of Louisiana, U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI. I have also tasked Colonel Mike Edmonson and the State Police to assist them as necessary, and as they call on the State Police to help them throughout this investigation. I have full confidence that this matter will be investigated, thoroughly, impartially, and professionally. I will demand that that is the way it is conducted, and I know the people of Louisiana will join me in doing so. And I will say based off the information I have obtained from law enforcement, as well as the footage I have observed that was made available, I have very serious concerns. The video is disturbing to say the least. And at this time, I am asking leaders in the faith based community, elected officials, and other community leaders here in Baton Rouge to work with me, to work with all of us, to ensure we remain calm and peaceful as the details continue to unfold. I know that, that may be tough for some, but it is essential that we do that. I know that there are some protests going on, but I encourage everyone to remain peaceful. One thing is for sure, another violent act or destruction of property is not the answer. We already have one family torn apart. In Louisiana, we are known for our ability to come together in difficult circumstances, and certainly this is one of those times. While the investigations get under way, I am asking everyone to walk through this difficult time together and safely. And with that in mind this afternoon, I will be meeting with numerous community leaders, in the church and in the community in Baton Rouge in order to make sure we remain peaceful and calm. We will certainly get through this tragedy. And with that, I would open it up for questions.

Well after my meeting this morning with Hillar Moore, the District Attorney, he told me he had already been in conversations with the Department of Justice. I then called Walt Greene, who is the Middle District U.S. Attorney, and I also spoke with FBI Special Agent in Charge Jeff Sallet out of New Orleans. They confirmed that in fact, they would be coming in to be the principal agency investigating this matter and in fact, that is the case. No. I have seen, as I understand it, there is one video that is on the public domain, and that is what I have seen.

I do not. I think the video speaks for itself on the race of the matter, of the two officers, I should say. As for their names, I do not have that information. Well, I don't want to get further out there than the situation calls for. You say more violent, I'm not aware of any violence that has occurred as it relates to the demonstrations or protests. We don't want to go there. That's not an answer to anything. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that this incident will be fully, impartially, thoroughly and professionally investigated by the United States Department of

Justice Civil Rights Division. Hopefully, when the community understands that, the tensions will ease and we will continue to press for calm. That is what I am asking for right now.

I did not meet with Ms. Sandra Sterling; I talked to her on the phone. Obviously she is very distraught, but she was very gracious, she appreciated the call and she assured me that the family, directly and through their attorney, Edmond Jordan, will be also requesting calm and that any gatherings be peaceful. Violence and destruction of property are not the answer to anything that has happened today. So I appreciated the opportunity to talk to her, and I appreciate the role she will play in this matter.

No, his aunt. His mother is deceased, so his aunt is actually the one who raised Mr. Sterling.

Well, they will do what they are called on to do, by the lead agency investigating the matter, and it's not premature; I can't answer that question now. But to the extent that the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division need assistance from Mike Edmonson and the State Police, and I have told Colonel Edmonson to assist in any way that is called upon.

Yes, I spoke to Mayor Holden this morning. I know he is going to speak to the press shortly, so I don't want to preempt him. But I made sure that we were communicating, it is also his intention that this matter be investigated by an outside agency.

I am not, I am aware that there are some calls going out through social media from individuals for him to resign as well as the Mayor. But I have not talked to the chief, and I cannot speak for him.