

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL PUBLIC SAFETY PANEL REPORT

This is an executive summary of the Report of a five-person expert Panel (the “Panel”) convened by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (“UNC-CH”) to assess the security and public safety issues associated with the “Silent Sam” civil war monument (the “Monument”). This Panel consisted of five security professionals led by Chris Swecker, Attorney at Law and former FBI Assistant Director. Other members include Jane Perlov, who has served as NYPD Chief of Detectives, Queens, Secretary of Public Safety, Commonwealth of Mass. and Chief of Police in Raleigh N.C.; Louis Quijas, former FBI Assistant Director and Chief of Police, High Point, N.C.; Johnny Jennings, Deputy Chief of Police, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD); and Edward Reeder, Major General US Army Special Forces Command (Ret.) and CEO of Five Star Global Security. The Panel used its collective judgment and considerable experience to provide public safety related guidance to UNC-CH Administration and the Board of Trustees regarding development of a “plan for a lawful and lasting path that protects public safety, preserves the monument and its history and allows the University to focus on its core mission of education, research, economic stimulation and creating the next generation of leaders” pursuant to the August 28, 2018, Resolution of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.

A summary of its key findings follows:

- 1) UNC-CH faces a high risk of violence, civil disorder and property damage when the Silent Sam monument is restored on campus. It was the consensus opinion of the Panel members that the overall threat to people and property during events relating to the Monument has escalated to a heightened level. The Panel determined that the overall risk to public safety on the UNC-CH campus during demonstrations focused on the Monument is very high while the capability of the UNC-Chapel Hill Campus Police Department (“UNC PD”) to prevent civil disorder and violence is very limited.
- 2) Over the last few years the nature of college campus protests have changed dramatically. According to the Executive Director of the International Association of Campus Law enforcement Administrators (IACALEA):¹, Sue Riseling, *"Campuses often have demonstrations, sit-ins, marches. That's not uncommon on college and university campuses across our country. What's different is when a group comes with all of the baggage and all of the edginess and all of the willingness to use violence to further their political goal.* This new dynamic has presented a complex public safety and security challenge for college campus police departments across the country, including the UNC PD. Campus departments must effectively preserve public safety and maintain order on the college campuses where few limitations on

¹ IACALEA is the largest Association of Campus Law Enforcement Executives with over 4000 members and provides thought leadership, training and best practices to its members. See: <https://www.iaclea.org/mission-and-history>

public gatherings exist and crowd control tactics generally employed by law enforcement are fraught with sensitivities over any use of force by police.

- 3) The Panel assessed that demonstrations on the UNC-CH campus directed towards the Silent Sam monument will continue to present a highly complex campus police challenge in terms of crowd control and violence prevention. At the time of this review, however, this Panel determined that the capabilities of the UNC PD to maintain order and prevent violence acts are very limited. This is not a condition unique to UNC PD. According to IACALEA's Riseling, there are very few campus police departments that are capable of handling this complex law enforcement challenge.
- 4) The Panel assessed that the greatest risk associated with protest and counter-protest actions on the UNC-CH campus is the threat of violence by extremist elements imbedded inside protest and counter-protest groups. Threats and calls for violent action on social media sites on all sides have increased dramatically. A secondary risk is to buildings and property on the campus, including the security of the monument itself. During these events the threat of general chaos and disorder is an ever-present risk. When the monument returns to the campus the situation is certain to resume and intensify. The Panel noted the escalating use of violent tactics at these demonstrations that were staged since the statue was toppled and removed. During these events there was obvious evidence of preplanning and tactics that were designed to instigate violence between protest groups or draw an over-reaction from law enforcement. Objects such as smoke bombs, poles, frozen water bottles, paint balloons and metal objects were used by demonstrators as weapons.
- 5) The UNC PD has the primary responsibility to protect people and property in connection with athletic and other scheduled events on campus. They perform this police function on a regular basis without serious incident. The Panel determined that the UNC PD is effective and efficient at discharging its day-to-day law enforcement mission on the UNC-CH campus.
Campus police departments are generally not well equipped to deal with complex protest actions where they are caught in the middle between intense confrontations between protest and counter-protest groups while bystanders congregate. This Panel determined that few officers in the UNC-CH department have received any significant recent training in crowd control tactics and there has been minimal training as a unit. The Panel assessed that the UNC PD will require at least one mobile force platoon to support the UNC PD to prevent or respond to civil disorder and violence at future campus events.

As in all areas of risk management there can never be total certainty that the UNC-CH campus will be immune from civil disorder and the attendant violence and property damage. However, it is an attainable goal to place the UNC-CH Administration and Police Department in the best possible position to prevent serious violence and maintain order during the complex events that are sure to resume once the monument is restored on campus by undertaking certain actions.

- 6) The Panel made several recommendations on how the UNC PD can improve its capabilities to handle larger-scale protests that involve unlawful behavior. These include improvements to training, intelligence gathering, rules of engagement, and written action plans. The Panel also recommended that the UNC PD enhance its mutual aid relationship with other law enforcement agencies that can provide mobile field force units.
- 7) The Panel assessed potential locations for the monument against a list of site features that promoted enhanced security. The Panel found returning the monument to any open area such as McCorkle Place will draw significant local, state and national attention and significant protest actions will resume at same pace. Based on media posts and pattern of past events centered on the monument it will literally be under siege.
- 8) The Panel found that public safety and security could be enhanced by placing the monument in an indoor location on a site with certain characteristics. With respect to the site, the desirable characteristics include adequate buffers, minimal foliage, separation from major streets, and clearly delineated boundaries. These kinds of characteristics facilitate crowd management and enhance safety.
- 9) The Panel also recommended that public safety and security could be enhanced by the design of the building in which the monument could be located. Such design features are more feasible in new construction. Desirable design features include limited windows and glass, the use of shatterproof glass, reinforced security doors with no windows, use of sturdy and fireproof building materials, appropriate lighting, video surveillance and incorporation of state-of-the-art security measures.
- 10) The Panel highly recommends that the UNC Board of Governors implement a system-wide mobile force that can be deployed to any campus as needed.