

**DECLARATION OF JOHN DOE IN SUPPORT OF
STATEMENT OF CHARGES FOR RECALL OF
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, JENNY A. DURKAN**

I, John Doe, declare and state as follows:

1. The information contained in this declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am of majority age.

2. I am using the pseudonym of "John Doe" because I wish to remain anonymous.

3. On May 30, 2020 my spouse and I attended a public rally to protest police violence at Westlake center in Downtown, Seattle, WA and were subjected to police violence while exercising my constitutionally protected rights. My personal account shared below:

4. While walking west on Pine St., at approximately 2:30 PM, I could audibly hear what I now recognize as flash grenades ("flash bangs") being deployed against the crowd. When I arrived at the Westlake area, there were no signs of violence, threats of safety to the community or property damage on behalf of the crowd of demonstrators. My belief is that Seattle Police Department and collaborating police departments began deploying such uses of force early in the demonstration to intimidate protestors and further agitate the crowd.

5. At approximately 4:40 PM, while I was in a crowd of nonviolent demonstrators chanting in front of a police line on 5th Ave, the crowd was directly subjected to loud explosive devices (what I now believe to be flash grenades), which were thrown or shot into individual protestors at close range, including shrapnel which hit demonstrators directly. I personally witnessed a nonviolent demonstrator hit directly in the back with one of the explosive devices, while in retreat with arms raised in the air.

6. In attempt to help a fellow young protestor get out of the crowd safely, I was burned on my lower left leg by what I believe to be one of these incendiary devices.

7. At 4:49 PM, many additional explosive devices were thrown into a crowd of nonviolent demonstrators who were chanting "arms up, don't shoot" in unison with arms raised. I did not witness any verbal demands of dispersal on behalf of the Seattle Police Department, nor did I witness any actions against the police to warrant any such response. There was a Seattle Police vehicle that had been set on fire, but it was entirely isolated and posed no threat to the crowd or fellow demonstrators. The police did not focus on this vehicle at all, instead focusing their attention on the demonstrators who posed no harm to public safety.

8. At approximately 5:00 PM, Seattle Police began deploying the use of CS Gas ("tear gas"). This was by far the most alarming part of my experiences on this day. I was later told by other protestors that Mayor Durkan had issued a notice to leave the downtown area, but as I did not have my phone's cellular activity activated I was not aware of any message, nor was one issued verbally by any of the police.

9. The CS gas quickly filled the intersection of 5th Ave and Pine causing many protestors to scatter into nearby areas of the streets. I personally witnessed a young woman in a state of health distress being carried to firefighters along 5th Ave. I tried to help others, including what appeared to be demonstrators under the age of 18, get to safety or water as they struggled to navigate the area safely.

10. The usage of tear gas continued, quickly filling the entire the entire Pine St. corridor (directly east of the Pine/5th intersection) into a thick cloud of gas. At this point, it was nearly impossible to see and felt nearly impossible to breath, though I had a mask covering. Having never experienced this before, I went into a state of panic and had to quickly flee the area. As the area is surrounded by large buildings, and there were hundreds if not thousands of people still in the crowd, it became difficult to leave the area and avoid the gas, and police did not discontinue their use of weapons.

11. I experienced an intense burning in my eyes and throat for at least 30 minutes after being able to finally flee the area, though some symptoms persisted into the next day.

12. I would describe the violence I experienced and witnessed highly traumatic and has caused me difficulty focusing and sleeping since that day.

13. As a demonstrator standing in solidarity with my community to protest police brutality against Black lives, committing no other crime than exercising my rights to free speech and assembly, the actions of the Seattle Police Department as sanctioned by Mayor Jenny Durkan were absolutely inexcusable and posed the greatest threat to my personal health, security and wellbeing I have personally experienced.

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed on this day, June 14, 2020.

By: _____

John Doe