

THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

BLACK LIVES MATTER SEATTLE-  
KING COUNTY, ABIE EKENEZAR,  
SHARON SAKAMOTO, MURACO  
KYASHNA-TOCHA, ALEXANDER  
WOLDEAB, NATHALIE GRAHAM,  
AND ALEXANDRA CHEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF SEATTLE,

Defendant.

No. 2:20-cv-00887-RAJ

DECLARATION OF JOEY WIESER IN  
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR  
CONTEMPT

I, Joey Wieser, 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 and competent to testify about the matters set forth herein.

2. I live in Capitol Hill. I work as a YouTube channel manager for a local company. Outside of work, I have spent the last two months documenting police interactions with protesters by livestreaming those interactions as a freelance journalist.

3. Because of my consistent presence documenting the protests, and because I wear a distinctive jacket, I have become well-known to the group of independent media with whom I often find myself when I livestream the protests. I have also become well-known to protesters,

1 and it would not surprise me if many Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers are aware that I  
2 am part of the independent media.

3 4. In my two months of documenting police interactions with protesters, I have  
4 never witnessed police targeting independent media with the crowd control weapons I have seen  
5 them use against protesters.

6 5. But Saturday, July 25, 2020, was different. I was standing on a corner with other  
7 independent media, like I had countless times before. Police targeted us with blast balls, firing  
8 them directly at us, even as I and others shouted “Media, media.”

9 6. The blast balls and other crowd control weapons forced us to move. As I  
10 retreated, I said to the officers, “We’re moving back, we’re being peaceful, we’re moving back,  
11 we’re being peaceful.”

12 7. I posed no threat. I was not hurting anybody, destroying anything, or otherwise  
13 acting in a threatening manner. Despite this, while I was on stair steps, an officer shoved me,  
14 and then shot pepper spray into my mouth. At this point, we were a full block away from where  
15 the police started pushing the protesters.

16 8. I said, as documented in my livestream, “I just got shoved and sprayed in the  
17 mouth, [screaming] I’m being attacked, I’m being attacked.”

18 9. But the attack would not end there. I was pepper sprayed again, directly in the  
19 face. I was blinded and could not see. I yelled, “Help, help . . . Somebody help me, somebody  
20 help me, please help me.” A blast ball was thrown at my feet, and when it exploded, I felt the  
21 heat run up my body. While I was disoriented from the blast and blind from the pepper spray, I  
22 tried to make my way away from the protest, looking to find safety.

23 10. Most of this interaction can be viewed in this clip from my livestream:

24 <https://www.facebook.com/724170490/posts/10158290622165491/?d=n>.

