



Morgantown Police Department

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

October 19, 2014

"UPDATE"

At approximately 22:28 hours on October 18, 2014, Officers of the Morgantown Police Department responded to reports of street parties with the probability of riots and fires throughout a number of locations in Morgantown. Initially gatherings started in the Sunnyside Neighborhood and continued to escalate in both size and intensity.

Police and Fire Personnel began addressing the crowds beginning to damage property and set fires throughout the community. Additional gatherings began appearing throughout other areas of the city to include the Central Business District.

During the course of the night a number of fires were set requiring response by the Morgantown Fire Department. Groups of individuals began pushing over street lights on High Street resulting in several thousand dollars worth of damage as well as throwing rocks, beer bottles and other blunt objects at both Public Safety Personnel and their vehicles. A number of construction sites were also breached where fencing protecting the site was destroyed.

As a result of the dangerous behavior the events were declared riots. The crowds failed to disperse after numerous warning resulting in the use of Pepper Spray and chemical munitions being deployed in order to disperse the crowds and prevent any serious injuries and minimize additional property damage.

The use of the chemical munitions resulted in the dispersal of the various groups of rioters without any serious injuries. Several individuals were arrested under various charges by a number of different law enforcement agencies that responded to requests for Mutual Aid Assistance because of the size and number of crowds engaged in criminal activity.

There were eight arrests by the Morgantown Police Department, Monongalia County Sheriff's Office and West Virginia University Police Department. Those arrested during the incident were:

Sean FLYNN, 18 years of age was arrested and charged with Underage Consumption, Littering Throwing Missiles and Assault on a Police Officer.

David LEVENDAKES, 21 years of age was arrested and charged with Malicious Burning, Disorderly Conduct, and Public Intoxication.

Dylan DELURY, 19 Years of age was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct, and Public Intoxication.

Dustin JOHNSON, 21 years of age was arrested and charged with Destruction of Property, Possession of Marijuana and Obstructing/Fleeing

Casey KNOX, 26 years of age was arrested and charged with Public Intoxication, Disorderly Conduct and Obstructing.

Jae PARKS, 20 Years of age was arrested and charged with Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer (Deputy), Obstructing, Underage Consumption, Disorderly Conduct, and Public Intoxication.

Peter DAVEY, 19 Years of age was arrested and charged with Obstructing, Underage Possession/Consumption, Disorderly Conduct and Public Intoxication.

Jason THOMAS 18 Years of age, was arrested and charged with Underage Consumption, Public Intoxication and Disorderly Conduct.

More than 24 Criminal Citations were issued between Saturday October 18th and Sunday October 19th to include:

Alexander HAMM, 18 years of age was charged with Malicious Burning.

Thomas STANKEVICZ, 18 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Brian QUINN, 19 years of age was charged with Possession of Controlled Substance.

Robin MARKONSKY, 20 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Daniel KENNEDY, 20 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Caroline FOREBACK, 18 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Brigid SUCKEL, 20 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption and Possession of a false identification.

Carly KANE, 19 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Chirara PULICE, 19 years of age was charged with Underage Consumption.

Elijah WELLMAN, 20 years of age was charged with Disorderly Conduct.

The Morgantown Fire Marshall's Office reports that there were 32 Street Fires and 7 Dumpster Fires that required response by the Morgantown Fire Department.

The Monongalia County Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency reported 114 emergency 911 calls as well as 135 non-emergency calls and 126 incidents requiring Public Safety Responses.

Additionally, (3) Morgantown Police Department Cruisers, (2) Morgantown Fire Marshal vehicles and (1) Fire Engine, along with (3) West Virginia University Patrol Cars, (1) Monongalia County Patrol Car and (1) Westover Police Department Patrol Car were damaged by rocks, beer bottles and construction debris during the riot.

The City of Morgantown is still assessing the total damage to the city. Two (2) street lamps and posts located in the 400 block of High Street were pushed over during the riot and a number of street signs were damaged or stolen as well as heat damage to the streets as a result of the street fires.

Officials from Morgantown, the surrounding jurisdictions and West Virginia University will continue to review these incidents as well as the ongoing effort to screen and review any and all social media postings, tips and surveillance videos that can identify those individuals engaged in criminal behavior.

Anyone that has information regarding individuals that engaged in criminal behavior is encouraged to report that information to the Morgantown Police Department or the West Virginia University Department of Public Safety.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating this type of criminal activity in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing”**, by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

Authority
Ed Preston
Chief of Police