



## Public Information Release

For More Information, Call:

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For Release Upon Request  
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### **Black Lives Matter Demonstration Update**

Prior to last Saturday's Black Lives Matter demonstration at Mall of America, Bloomington Police made every effort to communicate with the organization about their planned event. To ensure the safety and experience of its guests, Mall of America has had a longstanding policy in place that does not allow protests or demonstrations on their site. This policy has been consistently enforced. The Black Lives Matter group was informed that it did not have permission to gather and demonstrate in Mall of America. An alternative location was provided, and rally organizers declined to re-locate the demonstration.

In spite of our efforts, a demonstration took place at Mall of America at about 2:00 pm on December 20th. A large group occupied the East Rotunda area, as well as several other locations inside the mall. Participants were given warnings to disperse as this unlawful assembly was unauthorized. Bloomington Police officials were in close contact with demonstration organizers during the event and continued to work with them to try to end the demonstration as quickly as possible. The demonstration continued in various locations at Mall of America for over 2 hours.

25 people were ultimately arrested for a variety of offenses related to the demonstration. The Bloomington Police Department's primary concern was providing for the safety and security of MOA guests, tenants, and demonstration participants. There were no reported injuries or damage.

This remains an ongoing investigation as additional protest participants are being identified and this information will be forwarded to the Bloomington City Attorney's Office for consideration of charges.

For more information, contact Deputy Chief Rick Hart at 952-563-8680 (O), 952-292-2686 (C) or by email at [rhart@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:rhart@BloomingtonMN.gov)

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