

Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

BACKGROUND

On December 3, 2014 it was announced on the news that a New York City grand jury chose not to indict a NYPD officer in the death of Eric Garner. This came approximately one week after the grand jury in Ferguson, MO announced they would not indict the officer involved in the death of Michael Brown.

The Ferguson decision led to protests, in many cases violent, around the country. Durham experienced a protest in response to the Ferguson decision on November 25, 2014. The Ferguson response in Durham was not violent. However, several hundred protestors marched through the streets of Durham and blocked traffic, including the northbound lanes of the Durham Freeway at approximately 6:00PM on a Tuesday evening. Participants shot airborne fireworks while on the freeway, including into traffic that was still moving in the southbound lanes. This caused significant traffic congestion in and around downtown.

The day after the November 25th event in Durham, it was discovered that the National Guard Armory at 801 Stadium Drive sustained damage related to the Ferguson incident. Spray paint was found on the doors of the armory which read: "Out of Ferguson Now! Rioters are Heroes!" In addition, 19 windows in the front of the building were broken. The Armory sustained similar damage on October 18, 2014 when several locks were glued shut and "Disobey Orders Solidarity with Missouri Rebels – Fuck the Police" was spray painted on the building.

THE ANARCHIST MENTALITY

Anarchists use and take advantage of local citizens that are upset about a current event. During the Huerta marches, anarchists surrounded themselves with local citizens during marches then changed into all black clothing to disguise their identity to commit criminal acts in anonymity, finally returning to the crowd to discard the black clothing and masks (**See Attachment 13**).

KNOWN INFORMATION LEADING UP TO DECEMBER 5TH EVENT

Once the Eric Garner decision was announced, the same groups involved in the previous protest began utilizing social media to circulate information for another protest; primarily Facebook, Tumblr and Twitter. A small group gathered that evening (12/3/14) in front of Durham Police Headquarters in an attempt to build awareness for another gathering to take place on December 4, 2014, also in front of Headquarters (**See Attachment 1**). John Brier, the individual that posted the December 3rd event, is originally from Wilmington, NC and currently resides in Raleigh. His post was attached to the Occupy Raleigh group. Another post was made by an activist organization named InterOccupy about the December 3rd event and attached the post to Occupy Raleigh & Occupy Wall Street (**See Attachment 2**).

The December 4th protest ended up taking place at CCB Plaza and did not result in a march – participants remained peaceful and within the plaza area.

As social media activity was monitored it was determined that a protest was planned for Friday December 5, 2014. This event was being promoted by many, including a Carrboro and Chapel Hill group known as the Prison Books Collective (**See Attachments 3 and 4**). This group seems to have a close

Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

association with other groups from Chapel Hill; the UNControllables and Occupy Chapel Hill/Carrboro. These groups tout themselves as Anarchists and openly express anti-police agendas. Their members publicize their participation in Durham events such as those related to Jesus Huerta, Michael Brown and they appear to be responsible for the damage to the National Guard Armory. It is also believed that these groups were instrumental in agitating the protests related to the death of Jesus "Chuy" Huerta in late 2013 to early 2014, evidenced by the fact that several members connected to anarchist groups were directly observed participating in these events, and that there are commonalities in the lists of those attending on the event pages for these events.

The protests for Huerta resulted in the destruction of police department property and attacks on officers by using rocks and bottles. Anarchists often utilize these tactics in large group settings as a way to reduce their likelihood of arrest or being identified by police.

A man named Rafael Estrada from Raleigh, NC was heavily involved in the Moral Monday and Occupy Raleigh protests. Estrada is very open on his social media and often expresses his dislike and hatred of the police. Estrada has been present at many of our protests and participates in events at UNC Chapel Hill that are promoted by the UNControllables. He had a period of inactivity with his social media from the spring of 2014 until the recent protests began in Durham following the Ferguson announcement. Since then he has become very active in posting anti-police statements (**See Attachment 5 and 6**). He shared and promoted the event pages for the Ferguson and Eric Garner protests.

During the Ferguson protest in Durham, one source that appeared to be coordinating the portion of the protest that marched through town was found on Twitter. The Twitter name was listed as the source to follow for updates on fliers that were being hung on telephone poles, passed out at the DATA bus station and posted on-line. The flier depicted a male throwing a Molotov cocktail – it was shared by the UNControllables (**See Attachment 7**). The activity of this Twitter account was followed as it posted comments encouraging people to bring their rage and anger to the protests. The posts continued in support of the Eric Garner protest once the grand jury decision was reached (**See attachment 8**).

Leading up to the protest on December 5th, it appeared we could expect a similar turnout to the November 25th event. The numbers on the Facebook event pages suggested over 500 people were expected to attend. The tension was building among protestors around the country and we were anticipating more aggressive behavior by the participants. One post that was reviewed indicated that the December 4th event was a more family/child friendly gathering and the December 5th event was the planned march for those interested in engaging in acts of civil disobedience (**See Attachment 9**).

The November 25th protest that temporarily blocked the Durham Freeway was seen as a great success by those involved. Blocking traffic like this, as well as staging "die-ins" where protestors block traffic or disrupt a public place by pretending to be dead, had become the trend at events across the country. These were the tactics we were expecting to experience during the December 5th event. There was a significant amount of activity in the Downtown Durham area which was expected to be targeted. These included a tower lighting event at the American Tobacco Complex and two sold out shows at the DPAC.

Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

OBSERVED ACTIVITY DURING DECEMBER 5TH EVENT

Participants gathered at CCB Plaza on December 5, 2014 beginning at 7:00PM – the crowd was peaceful. People spoke on loud speakers for nearly an hour. Around 8:00PM there were twitter feeds intercepted that indicated a “die-in” was planned for 9:00PM in front of the DPAC (**See Attachments 10 and 11**). This would be about the time that the crowd from the first show of the night would be departing. Protesters at the plaza could also be heard over a loudspeaker encouraging the participants to make those at DPAC pay attention.

The protestors began their march about 8:00pm. The crowd, totaling over 200 people, made their way to the front of the Durham County Jail, where they stopped briefly and blocked all lanes of traffic on Mangum St. between the Jail and DPAC (**8:25pm**). Some participants lit smoke devices and airborne fireworks. The crowd then began marching south on Mangum St. toward the Durham Freeway, as they did during the November 25th event. Police officers were positioned at the on-ramp from Jackie Robinson to the northbound ramp for the Durham Freeway. The protestors continued south on Mangum St., where they gained access to the Durham Freeway via the southbound exit onto Morehead Ave (**8:35pm**). Police vehicles stopped traffic in both directions before the crowd entered the freeway. The crowd split up and moved back and forth from north bound to south bound lanes. They remained on the Freeway for over 30 minutes, walking through stopped traffic in the southbound lanes, before exiting onto W. Chapel Hill St. This resulted in significant traffic delays in both directions of the freeway.

The protestors were met with a large presence of officers in front of Durham Police Headquarters, which had been previously vandalized during the first Jesus Huerta demonstration (**9:15pm**). They continued to yell and taunt officers with statements suggesting the officers kill themselves. Many were derogatory and aggressive toward the police. They briefly blocked the intersection at W. Chapel Hill St. and Duke St., and then returned to the DPAC, which now had a large crowd waiting for the second show. Officers and patrons were nearly overtaken by the demonstrators (**9:25pm**). Ultimately the protestors made their way back onto S. Mangum St. and continued to agitate and refused to disperse. Several subjects were taken into custody at this location when they tried to force their way through the police line. During this time, an ambulance was unable to reach a citizen having a diabetic emergency on a bus at Mangum St. and Main St., requiring the patient to be diverted to an alternate medical facility.

After the arrests, the crowd was redirected north toward CCB Plaza (**9:55pm**). Bottles were thrown at officers and some participants were seen picking up rocks from the railroad tracks. These rocks were eventually thrown at officers on bicycles. They marched through downtown and continued north. The crowd appeared to be gradually breaking apart at this time, which was now approximately 100 people in size. There was another encounter with police officers on Foster St. near Geer St. where several more demonstrators were arrested (**10:30pm**). Police video is available upon request documenting as much of the aforementioned events as was possible to capture.

At this point the crowd continued north on Foster and kept breaking apart. By the time they reached Trinity Ave. the crowd separated to the point where the demonstration appeared over. The day after the event (12/6/14), officers were dispatched to 636 Foster St. for a suspicious device call. At this

Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

location, which is where the second set of arrests was made, a bottle containing a wick and petroleum-like substance was found. It is believed that the item was a homemade Molotov cocktail – designed to be lit and thrown as a way to start a significant fire.

EVENT PAGES

<https://www.facebook.com/events/859531304087791/?ref=22>

https://www.facebook.com/events/759783384092899/?ref=44&unit_ref=related_events

Note: One of the organizers using the Twitter handle @NC4Ferguson shared a link on his event page to a rap video that depicted a NYPD officer being executed (**Attachment 12**).

Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

Attachment 1:



John Brier @johnbrier 1h

#Durham #NC small group at PD. We're building for tomorrow at 6pm #EricGarner @OccupyRaleigh



Attachment 2:



IO: (InterOccupy) @InterOcc 2h

.@OccupyWallStNYC "Triangle, Durham Police station, 505 West #ChapelHill St 6:00 pm tonight. 12/3 #EricGarner #MikeBrown" @OccupyRaleigh #NC



3



2

Attachment 3:



UNControllables shared a link.
12 hours ago

Friday

<http://prisonbooks.info/2014/12/04/durham-demo-announced-in-response-to-murder-of-eric-garner/>



Durham: Demo Announced in Response to Murder of Eric Garner

prisonbooks.info

At 7pm on Friday, there will be an emergency demonstration to join in the chorus of outrage against...

Like Comment Share

↗ 3 Shares

👍 7 people like this.

Attachment 4:

Durham: Demo Announced in Response to Murder of Eric Garner

DECEMBER 4, 2014

tags: ACAB, Anarchy, anti-police, Durham, Eric Garner, Ferguson, FTP, New York, protest, resistance



At 7pm on Friday, there will be an emergency demonstration to join in the chorus of outrage against the NYPD, whose murderer-cop was just let off with no charges after choking Eric Garner to death, on video. Garner was selling "loose cigarettes," which in NYC is a petty crime, part of the state's larger strategy of managing populations in poorer areas.

Whether the murderer is indicted or not really makes no difference. Whether cops wear body cameras, are forced into sensitivity trainings, or "are from the community" will make no difference. The cops are a historically white supremacist force, used to repress and manage poor people and people of color. There is no escaping this fact.

A year ago Durham took to the streets repeatedly in protest of the police murder of Chuy Huerta. On Tuesday November 25th we marched with Ferguson, shutting down NC-147 in a broad effort at disruption. That was just the beginning. Please show up Friday night with all your rage and anger at this disgusting, racist system.

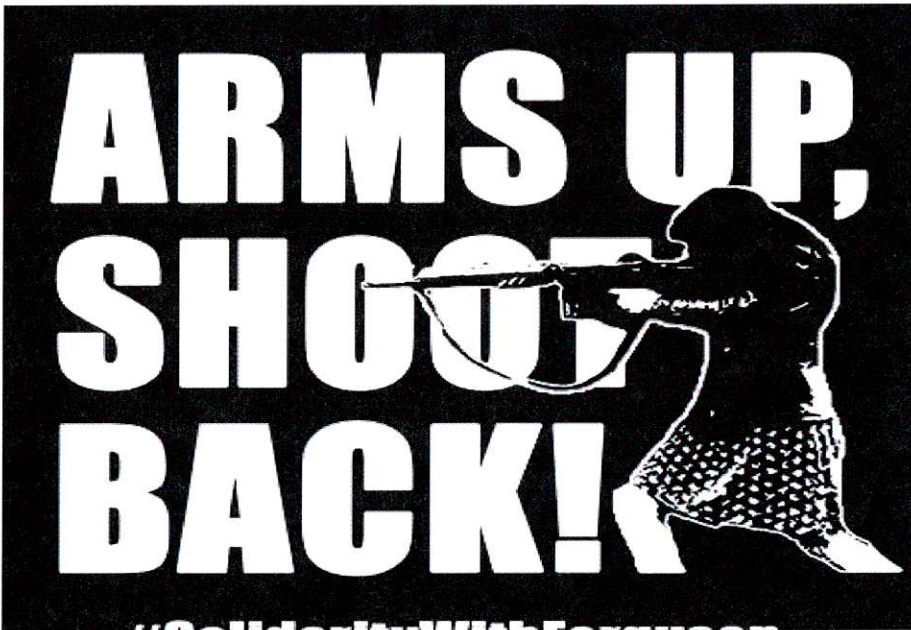
Updates and alerts can be found by following [@NC4Ferguson](https://twitter.com/NC4Ferguson) via twitter or by texting "Follow @NC4Ferguson" to 40404.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5TH CCB PLAZA 7PM

Attachment 5:



Rafael Estrada shared Rayne Voltairine Acab's photo
November 26 at 6:00pm



Share

Attachment 6:



Rafael Estrada
December 3 at 6:19pm

Seriously though. Are you ready to shut it down?

Like, really really really shut it down.

Like, I mean, shut it down so much that tomorrow you are still holding it at the police station and you have taken their vehicles and their guns away from them?

Like, shut it down so much that some of your friends are going to be taking over the hospital and make sure people get healthcare? ... See More

Share

👍 31 people like this.

↗ 11 shares



Carmen Davis please, let me know about what's going on. I want to join.
December 3 at 7:18pm 👍 2



Jamie Yeary Huerta We never felt alone thanks to you Rafael Estrada ❤️
December 3 at 7:27pm 👍 7

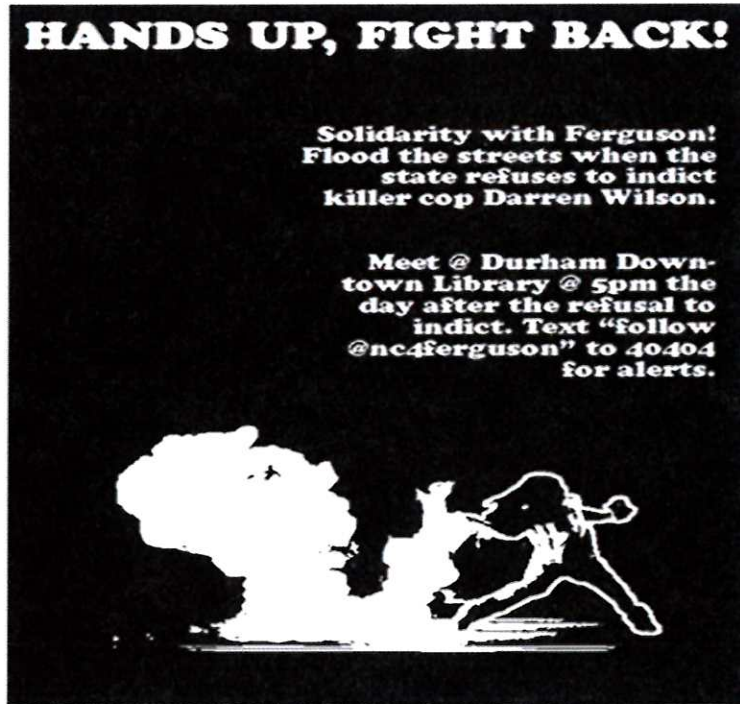
Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

Attachment 7:



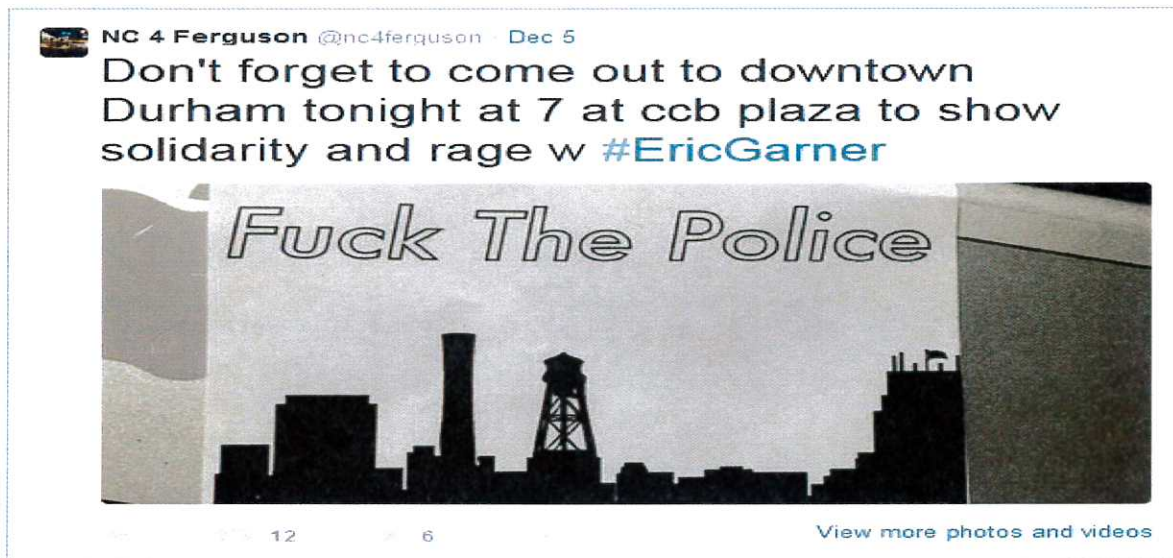
UNControllables
November 17

This is happening in Durham the DAY AFTER Darren Wilson isn't indicted.



Like Comment Share

Attachment 8:



Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

Attachment 9:



Lindsay Perry

11 mins

Do we expect this to be safe to bring kids to?

Like Comment Share

👍 Rodrigo Dorfman likes this.



Rodrigo Dorfman My understanding is that a march/protest has been called for TOMORROW for those who specifically want to march and possibly engage in acts of civil disobedience... my read from the folks who are coming today is that it will be "safe" for kids....

3 mins Edited Like 1



Lindsay Perry Awesome, thanks for your assessment. Any idea if there will be a way to be safely involved in Friday's protest?

Just now Like

Attachment 10:



Mina Ezikpe

Student page

Duke University class of 2017 From Nigeria. Born in L.A. Raised in ATL. Currently in Durham, NC. Living that college life.

254 Following 167 Followers

Tweets

Replies

Retweets



Mina Ezikpe @mpepuz

Die in in front of DPAC at 9 pm tonight.



Alisha Lewis @alishalewis

Speechless



Attachment 11:



pugazi

@pugaziparis

hard femme/survival never goes out of style
raleigh, nc • cursiveknives.tumblr.com

332 Following 327 Followers

Tweets

Replies

Retweets



pugazi @pugaziparis

DURHAM discussion in plaza happening now: die-in at DPAC at 9pm
@nc4ferguson #shuttdown



Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

Attachment 12:



Eric Garner Grand Jury Response in Durham (12/5/14)

Attachment 13:

Anarchist Definition:

1 : a person who rebels against any authority, established order, or ruling power.

2 : a person who believes in, advocates, or promotes anarchism or anarchy; especially : one who uses violent means to overthrow the established order.

What is a "BLACK BLOC"? Per: <http://www.infoshop.org/Blackbloc-Faq>

"A black bloc is a collection of anarchists and anarchist affinity groups that organize together for a particular protest action. The flavor of the black bloc changes from action to action, but the main goals are to provide solidarity in the face of a repressive police state and to convey an anarchist critique of whatever is being protested that day."

See Infoshop.org "kill capitalism before it kills you" site for a "BLACK BLOC" FAQ:

<http://www.infoshop.org/Blackbloc-Faq>

This is not your normal or average group of citizens that have concerns or issues with current events. These anarchists use and take advantage of current events to push their agendas which are Anti-Capitalism, Anti-State, Anti-Government, Anti-Police and Anti-Prisons. The anarchist element seeks an end to policing and prisons. Their main purpose is disruption, destruction and violence to achieve their goal of Anarchy.

These are the same groups that took over the vacant car dealership building in Chapel Hill in 2011, attempted to disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, regularly protest in front of Central Prison, and organized several Jesus Huerta demonstrations, which were repeatedly touted to be peaceful but was never the case.

The Huerta marches by these anarchists resulted in the disruption of traffic by unapproved marches through the city, use of smoke bombs and flares while marching, vandalism by spray painting buildings along march routes and property damage to Police Headquarters, Sub Station 5 and police vehicles. During the second Huerta march, anarchists at CCB Plaza were handing out black bandanas for people to cover their faces, and fliers on using "BLACK BLOC" tactics against the police. Anarchists use and take advantage of local citizens that are upset about a current event. During the Huerta marches, anarchists surrounded themselves with local citizens during marches then changed into all black clothing to disguise their identity to commit criminal acts in anonymity, finally returning to the crowd to discard the black clothing and masks.

The anarchist element will commit acts of anarchy, and then afterwards run a propaganda campaign via the media to downplay their acts and demonize any police action as brutal and oppressive.