

UCP Deployment: Palestinian-Israeli Event  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018  
Angie Whitehurst

We responded and participated in a peace keeping action at Tyson's corner square in Fairfax Virginia. It was rainy, windy and cold. Our presence began at the pedestrian bridge exit of the Tysons corner metro. Prior to the activity the police were on the lower underpass into the plaza and we're present in the metro. Allegedly, the police were called and an officer explained that a call was made to the Fairfax police. Their orders were explicit. The protesters were to be allowed into the square with the following restrictions:

1. Tee shirts could be worn
2. No chanting
3. No singing
4. No posters, flags or banners
5. If they did not abide, the owners would call in the police and those not in compliance would be arrested.

The designated action site was the restaurant Earl's, a straight pathway from the metro pedestrian walkway. Less than a hundred protesters, gathered in silence in front of the restaurant with banners, flags, balloons, and symbolic flags...raining, with umbrellas in hand. DC peace keepers stood in front of the restaurant alcove, outside the front door and among the crowd. The security contractors had amassed in front, to the side and to the back of the crowd on all sides. They directed by verbal and physical presence, that the protestors stand clear of the door and walkway access to the restaurant. All of which the protesters complied with.

The restaurant manager came out and began talking to the security people. He said, they, the protesters, were not supposed to be "doing this," he asked them what were they going to do. The security officer said "not a thing." The manager was adamant. The security officer then told him, that the police would have to be called if he wanted them to leave. The call was made and the jump out squad and regular Fairfax police appeared. They surrounded the protesters and began to tell them to move. Two people were arrested.

They prevented two women from exiting east of the restaurant and telling the women "you are a part of the group. I know that because I have been watching you for the past 20 minutes." The women came and stood by me and I walked behind them till we got to the restaurant access, where they stayed until the now crowded walk way was clear. Makaya was the eyes and ears moving with and through the crowd.

An officer had said that protesters would be given one warning. That did not happen at all. Only two were arrested and not everyone in proximity. We had to frequently relay the Fairfax police and the security police of Tyson's square that we were non-partisan and what our role was.

Eli got a glimpse and interacted with one police officer with a paint ball pellet gun. I'm sure it deterred him as the protesters had gone across the bridge down the metro escalator and out to the underpass walking toward the mall. He also engaged in a productive conversation with another

officer on the interaction with protesters groups. Hopefully, the door is open to future conversations.