

opinion without access to officer reports and witness accounts.

However, Blake said it appeared officers had a lawful reason to investigate a crime, and their attempts to detain or arrest some of the youths on the scene were met with resistance. He said he also saw “behaviors” officers may have perceived as threatening, such as one person approaching an officer quickly. To Blake—who cited state laws pertaining to resisting arrests in his analysis—the “question is not how we see it on the video, but rather how this was perceived by the officers on the scene.” He said he saw “nothing out of line” regarding the uses of force by the police.

“As far as the female who is on the ground—she is clearly actively resisting their attempts to arrest her, but using very little force to do so (trying to get her hands behind her back). Whether or not there were opportunities to de-escalate are a matter of subjective opinion but certainly cannot be derived from what little we know from these videos.”

Alma emphasized that she’s no expert and CCJ doesn’t claim to have all the answers, she said. But the group does advocate for more transparency when it comes to training for police officers.

“Mike O’Brien has said that he’s brought in more training since Desmond Phillips’ death,” she said. “That’s great, but this just happened. There’s so little transparency that we don’t know what kind of training they’ve had.”

CCJ sees children as a vulnerable population—much like minorities, people with mental illness, and people who are homeless. Those are the groups for which transparency will add protection, she said. Whether or not the use of force was warranted, what happened on July 5 was a particularly negative encounter with law enforcement for Jane, the 11-year-old girl and even Jane’s sister, who can be seen in a video being grabbed by the hair.

“The people who are supposed to protect us are the ones threatening us,” Jane said.

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