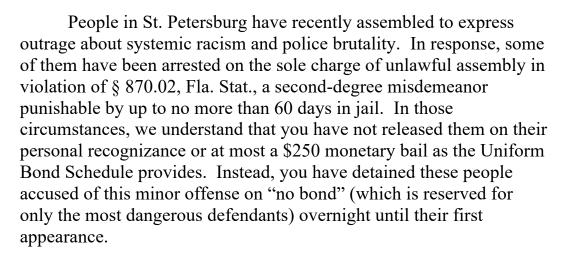
June 10, 2020

Bob Gualtieri, Sheriff for Pinellas County, Florida Sent via email to RGualtieri@pcsonet.com

Re: No bond for Unlawful Assembly arrests

Dear Sheriff Gualtieri,



This oppressive practice, seemingly by design, has a chilling effect on the exercise of free speech by those who want to express their disapproval of excessive use of force by law enforcement. It is not a good strategy for law and order, limits a free exchange of ideas, and thwarts a more perfect union. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects against government actions which impede people's rights to speech, assembly, and petitioning of their government. We demand that you immediately cease detaining people overnight for expressing their beliefs and follow the Bond Schedule's recommendation to release them on their personal recognizance. We request a response from you in writing by Friday, June 12, informing of us how you intend to address our concerns. Alternatively, we can make ourselves available to discuss this via phone.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Azis, ACLU of Florida, Staff Attorney

Catherine Blackburn, ACLU of Florida, Pinellas Chapter Legal Panel Chair



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