

## I am energized to do a few things: Rebuild; Reform; Restructure; and Revitalize

Victor James Smith  
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Thank you very much. God bless everyone. I am excited to be on this call today, as yesterday we had the funeral for George Floyd, and we (along with many others) provided safety and security for that funeral, as all the stars and the politicians and the folks, the celebrities, came to honor his life.

As the national president of MADDADS and a member of ACLC, I am energized to do a few things. There are five Rs that I know we have to do. The one is Rebuild; we must rebuild our communities all across the nation. The second is Reform. There must be reform in the work that we do. And then, Restructure. We have to restructure some of the systematic things that are happening, right now, in terms of the police departments and politics. And we have to Revitalize. Our people are stressed out; they are worried. They are still getting over an epidemic, and now they are trying to figure out what to do.

They were just about to open businesses and then their windows were broken. Now they are trying to figure out how do we double revitalize? We revitalized once. How do we do it again? The last one is Refuse. We must refuse to go back to where we came from. We must refuse to go back to the system the way it was. We must refuse to let the status quo be the same again. We must have equality. This is the opportunity for us now to break the barriers. The only thing that is really going to help us is God and being God-driven to make this change happen. We have to be focused, laser-focused, on transformation in our communities.

**Thomas Walsh:** Thank you Rev. Smith. You made that crystal clear with the five Rs, and I think they are all spot on. We will come back to that as we go further into our conversation together.



### A Timeline of Racial Clashes between Police and the Public

*(This text is from Voice of America, a US government entity and was not part of the webinar.)*

Protests in the City of Minneapolis are the latest in the modern era that began as a result of racially charged confrontations between the police and Black Americans.

1965: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

A roadside argument between white officers and a black motorist stopped for reckless driving sparks six days of rioting in the neighborhood of Watts.

1967: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Two white officers arrest and beat up a black taxi driver for a minor traffic violation, setting off five days of civil unrest.

1967: DETROIT, MICHIGAN

A police raid on a black nightclub hosting the return of two returning black servicemen [US soldiers] results in four days of violence that spread to Illinois, North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland.

1980: MIAMI, FLORIDA

The acquittal of four white officers in Tampa on charges of beating a black motorcyclist to death in December 1979 after he drove through a red light sets off three days of unrest in Miami's Liberty City.

1992: LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The acquittal of four white officers who were filmed by a bystander beating a black motorist in March 1991 erupts in five days of violence that also breaks out in Atlanta, Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco and San Jose.

2001: CINCINNATI, OHIO

Four days of civil unrest occurs after the killing of a 19-year-old black man by a white officer during an attempt to arrest him for traffic citations.

2014: FERGUSON, MISSOURI

After an 18-year-old black man was fatally shot by a white officer during an encounter in the St. Louis, Missouri suburb of Ferguson, sixteen days of violent protests ensue. The shooting sparks a nationwide debate about interactions between law enforcement and African Americans.

2015: BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The death of a 25-year-old black man a week after suffering spinal injuries while in police custody sets off 15 days of protests. In July 2016, charges were dropped against all six officers in the death.

2016: CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

The fatal shooting of a 43-year-old black man by police sparks two nights of protests. Police say the victim was shot after refusing to comply with orders to drop a handgun. The shooting was recorded on bodycam and dashcam, and was later ruled justified.

2020: MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Protests continue in cities across the country that began with the death of a 46-year-old black man suspected of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. Four policemen were fired, one was charged with murder for kneeling on the victim's neck for eight minutes until the victim died.