D.C. Mayor had "Black Lives Matter" Painted on a Street in Front of the White House

By Denrique Preudhomme

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WASHINGTON - D.C. Mayor, Muriel Bowser had "Black Lives Matter" painted today on a street in front of the White House. Mayor Bowser had the slogan painted on the asphalt in huge capital letters, and also <u>renamed the square</u> in front of Lafayette Park, "Black Lives Matter Plaza."



Black Lives Matter Plaza: Lafayette Park. Photo by Denrique Preudhomme

Mayor Bowser's street signage comes on the heels of an escalating dispute with President Trump over control of D.C. streets. President Trump urged a crackdown earlier this week on protestors who took to the streets to show solidarity for the <u>death of George Floyd</u>, a 46-year-old black man accused of buying cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Floyd died in Minneapolis, Minnesota of strangulation after former police officer Derek Chauvin pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes. <u>Chauvin was arrested</u> and charged with second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

President Trump, together with Attorney General William P. Barr, ordered Federal police and the National Guard to the capital against Mayor Bowser's wishes after being outraged by vandalism and looting during peaceful protests in D.C. and other cities in the Metropolitan area.

St. John's Church, where President Trump walked over and <u>posed for a photo op</u> on Monday night with a Bible upside-down in his hand, and the White House, now sit on "Black Lives Matter Plaza." Mayor Bowser watched in silence as a city worker hung the sign that said "Black Lives Matter Plz NW" on the corner of $16^{\rm th}$ and H streets today shortly after 11 a.m.



St. John's Church: Site of Trump's Photo Op. Photo by Denrique Preudhomme

D.C. city workers began to paint the massive "Black Lives Matter" slogan today on 16th Street NW before dawn—a street that leads directly to the White House. The signage takes up two blocks on 16th Street NW, between K and H Streets.



Massive "Black Lives Matter" painted on 16th Street NW. Photo by Denrique Preudhomme

Peaceful protestors gathered in front of the White House where new fencing barriers were put up Thursday morning which added to the 8-foot fence that was erected around the entrance to Lafayette Square earlier this week.



Protestors in front of the White House. Photo by Denrique Preudhomme

"In America, you can peacefully assemble," Mayor Bowser said this morning to protesters.

Several <u>storefronts boarded</u> up for protection close to the White House and many parts of the city due to window-smashing and looting Monday night during protests.

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