



City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

Law Department

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February 25, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

The City of Omaha's Law Department is aware of the allegations raised by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) regarding the Omaha Police Department viewing public social media posts.

This is not a form of surveillance as alleged by the ACLU. Phones were not wiretapped, residences were not monitored, and people were not followed. Law enforcement saw the public posts of people who volunteered this information in an open forum.

The ACLU takes issue and alleges that people were targeted because of their beliefs. That is not the case. Public social media posts were viewed to gather information on planned events that might require a police presence to control traffic, preserve the peace, and ensure the safety of all citizens.

As opposed to many planned events that occur in the City of Omaha, some groups chose not to give the Omaha Police Department any advance notice. In learning about planned events, the Omaha Police Department is better prepared to serve all of the citizens in Omaha.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Kuhse
Interim City Attorney