

# CAPITOL HILL OCCUPIED PROTEST (CHOP) AND POLICE BRUTALITY IN SEATTLE

## The Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ) or Capitol Hill Occupied Protest (CHOP)

After a Minneapolis police officer murdered George Floyd on May 25, 2020, anti-police brutality demonstrations sprung up around Seattle. People marched from downtown up to the East Police Precinct building on Capitol Hill. The precinct became the epicenter of protests. This occupation protest and self-declared autonomous zone originally covered two intersections at the corners of Cal Anderson Park and the roads leading up to them. It was established on June 8, 2020, by George Floyd protesters after the Seattle Police Department (SPD) left its East Precinct building. The zone was cleared of occupants by police on July 1, 2020. The zone was a self-organized space, without official leadership.

Protesters asserted three main demands:

1. Cut Seattle's \$409-million police budget by 50%.
2. Shift funding to community programs and services in historically black communities.
3. Ensure that protesters would not be charged with crimes.



## Police Brutality & Implicit Bias Towards Black Individuals

The stereotype of black males as violent, threatening, dangerous criminals exacerbates police violence, including shootings and use of excessive force towards unarmed individuals. Even since the abolition of slavery, government sanctioned forces have existed to protect white people from a perceived black threat through use of dehumanizing policing practices.

