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## SHERIFF BILL GORE STATEMENT ON NATIONAL GUARD

We remain committed in protecting people's right to peacefully protest. We also want to prepare for any demonstrations escalating into riots.

We saw this happen in La Mesa on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> when several businesses were looted and damaged including two banks which burned to the ground. La Mesa City Hall also sustained fire damage as rioters broke in and tried to burn it down.

Deputies came to the aid of La Mesa Police, but we did not have enough resources to stop the vandals and thieves from targeting law enforcement and ravaging businesses. The crowd was more than we anticipated. We were outmanned.

We're not going to let that happen again.

I requested National Guard troops to respond to San Diego County. Guard soldiers cannot make arrests, but can detain suspects until law enforcement arrives. They will provide security to critical infrastructure to prevent the destruction of property. This mutual aid will free up local officers to respond to incidents of arson, break-ins, looting, vandalism and rioting. Guard troops can also escort ambulances and fire trucks.

During the 2003 and 2007 wildfires, the National Guard was also deployed to San Diego County helping with mass evacuations. It is made up of people who volunteer from our communities. They could be people you know like teachers, doctors, lawyers, retail clerks or parents.

We thank the guard troops for their service and support so we can ensure the protection of life and property while balancing people's right to peacefully assemble.

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