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make a difference – and you're being held back by that?

D.M.: The movement is a big space with a lot of incredible people all across the country, and one is an acknowledgement that we know prison is not constructed to be a place of rehabilitation and that people continue to need resources and support, and that it is actually a choice that society has made, to not support them. That is not how it has to be, it's not like the system is just set up and there is only one way it could be; like that's a choice. So we're always reminding people that it's a choice to not employ people, it's a choice not to give people health care. That is a choice that we have made as a society, and we can make a different choice. When people say that the system is working exactly the way it was designed, what I'm always mindful of is that people designed it, and people can choose something different. From a program perspective, I think, yeah, there are a lot of really interesting programs that we could do, but from a structural perspective, it's like we could actually just make a different commitment and we could invest different money. It's never a money issue; it's never a resource issue; it's always a will issue. It's a matter of do we think that people are worth this? And do we think that people will make good choices with the resources we give them? So that's what I think about when I think about that.

E.G.: *Do you think the Black Lives Matter movement has influenced the way media covers issues around police, poverty and mass incarceration?*

D.M.: If anything, I think the movement has definitely changed both the content and the tone with which the conversation happens in public. I think about in the early days of the protest, how we all worked so hard to challenge the news calling us a "mob," and those sort of things. It was also incredibly important in St. Louis because the police were as violent with the reporters as they were with us, so we didn't actually

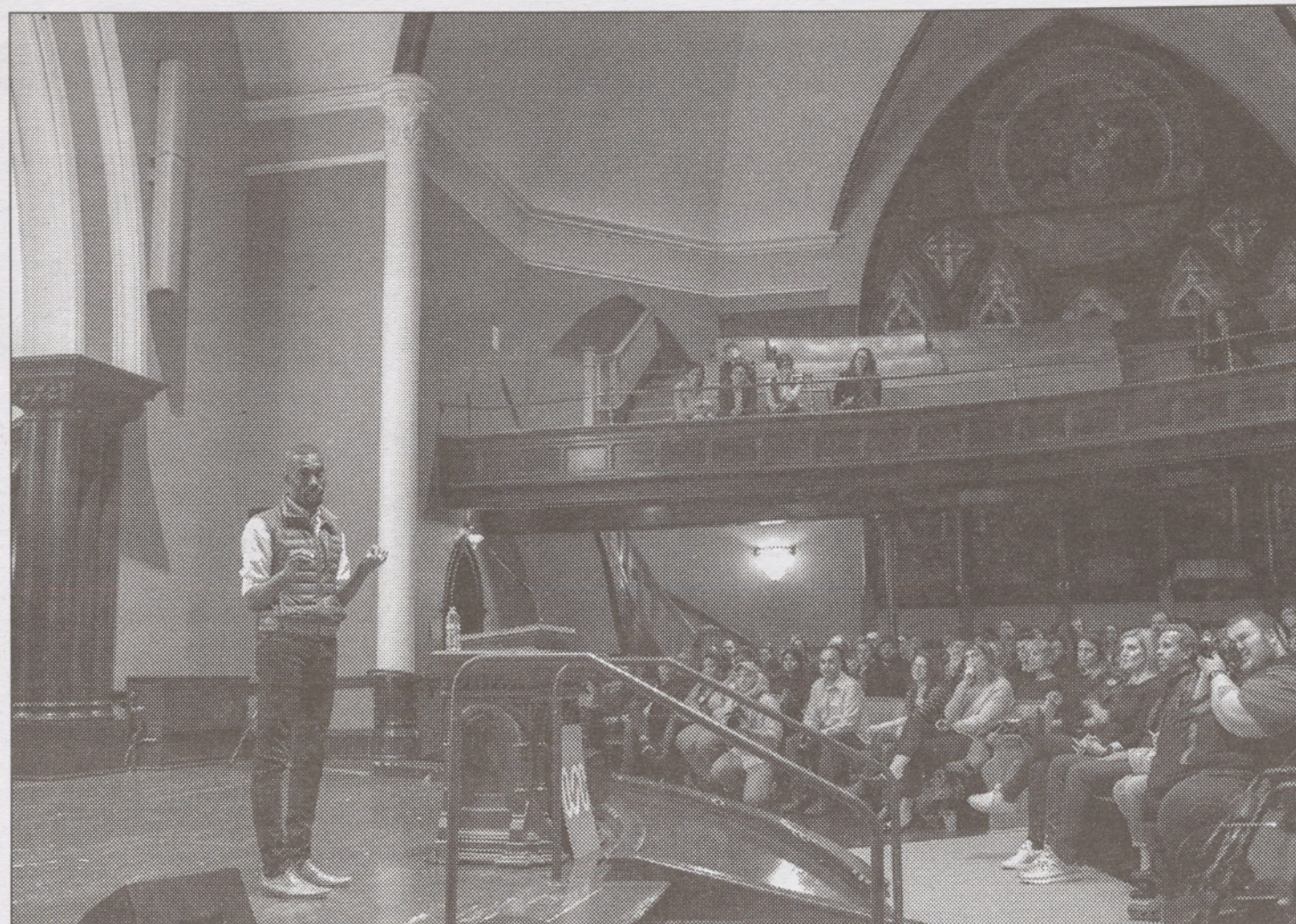


PHOTO BY CELESTE NOCHE

DeRay McKesson speaks March 15 at First Congregational United Church of Christ.

have to convince them; it was like, they got tear-gassed and they made Chris Hayes (of MSNBC) march down the street like they made all of us, right? So that actually helped because no longer did we have to lobby the media. It was like, you know that just happened, so you should report it because it happened to you. And it was people with huge platforms that that happened to, so that was a lot of our work. And now you see reporters across the country just much more skeptical. They push; they ask questions; they see the holes in the police story – things that we've been saying were happening for a long time.

I'll say though, changing the conversation is not the same thing as changing the systems and structures. While it's incredible that we've shifted the conversation – we now share language; we talk about police violence; those things are wins – the outcomes are still bad. More people got killed in '17 than in '14, '15 and '16.

E.G.: *Campaign Zero has outlined 10 policy solutions, including ending broken-*

windows policing and making union contracts for police fairer. Of all those goals, what do you think is most attainable? Do you see us moving toward really embracing any of those solutions?

D.M.: So we thought they all were attainable, which is why we put them together and why we named it Campaign Zero. We didn't name it "Campaign Almost Zero," or "Campaign Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda Zero" or "Campaign I Hope We Can Do It." We named it Campaign Zero because we feel confident that we can live in a world where the police don't kill people. Where we just have a different conception of what safety looks like. We did the first public database of use-of-force policies and the first public database of police shooting contracts and have been working with communities across the country to change those things. We do a lot of work around body cameras, which are positive and negative depending on where they're used. We think that the 10 pieces – and the reason why we put them all together and didn't really prioritize them is

that it will take all of them working in concert for things to happen. So we can fix the police shooting contract, but if there's not community oversight, it doesn't matter, and vice versa – so we think about them all as being necessary components of what change will look like.

E.G.: *Is there anywhere in the country that you think really stands out as being especially progressive in moving toward these goals?*

D.M.: I think places have done pieces – we were just in Austin, and Austin City Council unanimously voted against a police shooting contract, which we hadn't seen happen before. So that was powerful; that just happened. A lot of places have rewritten their use-of-force policies to make more sense. There are places that have done pieces of it really well. I don't think there is a place that has done a range of them well.

N.J.: *Do you follow most of the police shootings that happen in the United States?*

D.M.: Yes.

N.J.: *Are you familiar with Che Taylor, who got killed (in February 2016 by police) in Seattle, and Andre Taylor, his brother, who is trying to bring justice for him?*

D.M.: I don't know that case.

N.J.: *He's from my hometown. When I found out that happened, it became personal. It actually was when I started realizing about the Black Lives Matter sign because I seen this shooting in Seattle, where I'm from, and I got afraid for my nephew. For once, I got afraid for my nephew, so I just want to thank you for bringing it out. And I had to do a lot of homework today, and I'm kind of ashamed to say, like I said, when I first saw the sign, I was ashamed of why they putting Black Lives Matter in 2018? We know we matter. And so I really want to thank you for everything that you've done.*

D.M.: I'm just one of many people. There are so many people. I think about in the streets in the beginning, before protest was cool, there's so many people who put so much on the line to make this happen.

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3rd Ave.



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Which doughnut is named after
Elvis Presley's entourage?

Print answer here

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