

Obama pays tribute to Dallas officers shot in racial attack

Associated Press

DALLAS — President Barack Obama urged Americans rattled by a week of violence and protests to find “open hearts” and new empathy Tuesday in a speech that seesawed between honoring police officers for their bravery and decrying racial prejudice that can affect their work.

Obama spoke near five empty chairs for the white police officers killed last week by a black man seeking vengeance for police killings. Behind him, underscoring his message of unity: Dallas police officers, a racially diverse church choir and local officials who ranged from black Police Chief David Brown to former President George W. Bush, a Dallas resident.

Obama sought to reassure the nation that he understands the impact of the unsettling events of the past week — including the killing of two black men by white police officers as well as the Dallas attacks.

Disturbing videos of the events have “left us wounded and angry and hurt,” he said.

“It is as if the deepest fault lines of our democracy have suddenly been exposed, perhaps even widened.”

Undaunted, the president urged Americans to cast aside such doubt and replace it with faith in the nation’s institutions and progress.

“Dallas, I’m here to say we must reject such despair. I’m here to insist that we are not as divided as we seem. And I know that because I know America. I know how far we’ve come against impossible odds,” he said.

The president spoke steps away from the chairs left empty for the five men killed last Thursday while protecting hundreds of people protesting the killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota. The Army veteran killed by police after the Dallas attack said he was motivated by revenge.

“The soul of our city was

Many in law enforcement feel frayed relationship with Obama

DALLAS (AP) — After each fatal shooting of a black man by an officer, President Barack Obama has swiftly spoken out against bad policing, giving voice to the generations of African-Americans who have found themselves at the wrong end of a baton, a snarling dog or a gun.

As much as those words have comforted blacks, they have rankled many of the nation’s men and women in blue. Some have described the remarks as an insult, an all-too-quick condemnation before all the facts are in and a failure to acknowledge the thousands of cops who do a good job and routinely risk their lives.

“It would just be nice for him to say ‘Hey, I support what you’re doing,’” said Scott Hughes, chief of police in Hamilton Township, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. “The president doesn’t defend the police. It’s very one-sided.”

pierced,” Mayor Mike Rawlings said, as he welcomed the president and a line of public officials, including Bush, who attended with his wife, Laura, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, and Brown. The group on stage capped the ceremony by holding hands and swaying to the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” — a symbol in sight and song of the service’s unity theme.

“Too often we judge other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions,” Bush said. “And this has strained our bonds of understanding and common purpose.”

Bush and other speakers paid tribute to the fallen officers — Brent Thompson, a 43-year-old newlywed; Patrick Zamarripa, 32, a Navy veteran who served in Iraq; Michael Krol, 40, an athlete and basketball lover; Michael Smith, 55, a former Army Ranger and father of two, and Lorne Ahrens, whose wife is a police detective.

No one expressed his appreciation for the men more memorably than Brown, who has emerged as the steady and charismatic face of the Dallas police. The chief spent part of his time reciting Stevie Wonder’s “I’ll Be Loving You Always” to express his affection for his officers.

For Obama, the moment

was a chance to try to defuse what some have described as a national powder keg of emotions over race, justice, gun violence and policing. The president positioned himself as both an ally of law enforcement and a sympathizer of the Black Lives Matter movement.

It’s a posture neither side has completely accepted.

Law enforcement officials have sharply criticized Obama and some of his policies, including a decision to stem the flow of military-grade equipment to local departments. One prominent voice, William Johnson, executive director the National Association of Police Organizations, accused Obama of waging a “war on cops.”

Some protesters, meanwhile, questioned why Obama rushed home from Europe to attend the service in Dallas before meeting with the communities grieving their dead in Minnesota and Louisiana.

In a gesture aimed at the answering that, as Obama flew to Dallas he telephoned the families of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, the men killed in confrontations in Baton Rouge and suburban St. Paul.

The White House said Obama worked late into the night on his speech, consulting Scripture for inspiration.

ROXBURY: Denies rumors of anything sinister, nefarious involving his departure

Continued from 1A

Bieren, a 14-year-old boy from Umatilla who had gone swimming with his friends at a popular swimming hole on the Umatilla River. Spring runoff had made the river more unpredictable and Bieren was unresponsive after being pulled from the water by his friends. Roxbury was the first responder to get to Bieren who he said had been like a son to him and had spent a lot of time at Roxbury’s home because Bieren was friends with his son. “That was about the worst day of my adult life,” Roxbury said, “I should have quit then, but I’m not a quitter.” The anniversary of the tragedy was around Memorial Day and by August “the dam had broke and the water was trickling out,” Roxbury recounts. “Now I could see that I hadn’t put this away, it was still a problem and I couldn’t ignore it anymore.”

Roxbury broke down crying at a Umatilla Rural Fire Board meeting in September. Fire board member and Umatilla Chief of Police Darla Huxel suggested Roxbury take some time off. She also referred him to the On-Site Academy in Massachusetts where he spent five days decompressing from a career in public service. Roxbury used his accrued sick and vacation pay to take the time off.

His sudden departure from active duty is what he said got the rumor mill going. Roxbury said the fire board couldn’t give specifics about his medical leave because of privacy concerns, and there was nothing else to say except “no comment.” There was no further explanation to the volunteer firefighters either.

Roxbury is adamant in response to rumors

surrounding his departure.

“There was nothing sinister, nothing nefarious,” he said.

At the December 2015 fire board meeting, the board discussed Roxbury coming off medical leave. The former chief said it was his suggestion that if he came back, he not respond to any calls. The board and Roxbury ultimately decided that was unrealistic — he wouldn’t be able to ignore calls for help while sitting at a desk in the fire station.

In March, the fire board named Steven Potts as interim chief and Roxbury used the remainder of his accrued time off before officially retiring.

The Umatilla Morrow Radio and Data District owes its existence in part to Chief Roxbury’s efforts. He, with the support of others, helped draft a bill that was passed in the Oregon Legislature in 2009 allowing for the creation of the radio district. In 2010, local voters passed a measure to use tax money to fund the district. The radio system is now used by every city agency in Umatilla and Morrow counties, excluding Milton-Freewater.

At 51, Roxbury is not sure what is next for him. But he is proud of the work he did for the Umatilla Rural Fire Department.

“I just want my legacy to be that I did the best job that I could and did it for as long as I possibly could,” Roxbury said, “I’m OK with my legacy being, ‘He did his job.’”

The former fire chief encourages other first responders to learn from his experiences and to take care of themselves. He is not sure what that looks like for each person, but he suggests asking for help and talking to people.

A retirement party for Roxbury will be July 16 at the Umatilla Quality Inn at 5 p.m.

PENDLETON: Public favorite was the cinema site

Continued from 1A

While the block would be able to fit the fire station, room for much beyond that could be an issue. Ciraulo said there’s no room for training and the public parking lot across the street might need to be utilized.

Out of the 53 people who attended the series of public meetings on fire station locations, Ciraulo said the overwhelming favorite was the Pendleton Cinema site.

Several councilors didn’t like the thought of property that could be used for economic development taken off the market for the fire station.

“Wiping out a city block of somewhat premium real estate is not good stewardship,” councilor Paul Chalmers said.

The council seemed to prefer the second-best recommendation, the old St. Anthony site.

The property would offer more room for training and prevent part of an unused property from falling into blight.

But between land acquisition and site development, it would cost about \$1 million

to ready the property for a fire station, a point of concern for City Manager Robb Corbett.

Ciraulo said members of the public tended to oppose the St. Anthony site because it was too far out from downtown and because of anger over the hospital’s refusal to donate the property.

The fire chief was uneasy over the divergent opinions of the council and the public.

“That scares me a little bit, frankly,” Ciraulo said. “The last thing I want to do is agitate the public when I’m going to ask them for a vote.”

Regardless of the council’s final decision — no action was taken during the workshop — Ciraulo suggested the council commission new designs for both sites.

Corbett said the council could consider commissioning the designs at its July 19 meeting while also allowing the public to comment on the finalists.

The other sites that were initially considered were eliminated for various reasons. Ciraulo said he received particular backlash for the idea to locate a new fire station at Til Taylor Park.

Sanders finally endorses Clinton

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) — With hugs and handshakes, Bernie Sanders endorsed Hillary Clinton for president on Tuesday and emphatically told his supporters their “political revolution” must now turn to electing his Democratic former rival.

Sanders bestowed his long-awaited support before a boisterous New Hampshire crowd, declaring he wanted to make it “as clear as possible as to why I am endorsing Hillary Clinton.” He congratulated her for securing enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination and vowed to do everything he could to help her defeat Republican candidate Donald Trump.

“This campaign is not really about Hillary Clinton, or Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders, or any other candidate who sought the presidency. This campaign is about the needs of the American people and addressing the very serious crises that we face,” Sanders said.

He added: “And there is no doubt in my mind that, as we head into November, Hillary Clinton is far and away the best candidate to do that.”

As Sanders delivered the endorsement just two weeks shy of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Clinton offered a huge smile, embracing him as they raised their arms in unity. The former secretary of state said the final four months of the campaign would be “much more enjoyable” working alongside Sanders and echoed her campaign slogan, “We are stronger together.”

During much of her remarks, Clinton embraced many of Sanders’ causes, vowing to oppose trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership, fight to raise the federal minimum wage — adopting Sanders’ tone, she called it a “starvation wage” — and overhaul the

campaign finance system.

“These aren’t just my fights. These are Bernie’s fights. These are America’s fights,” Clinton said.

Sanders has vowed to continue on until the convention and even though he endorsed Clinton he is still an active candidate, his campaign said after the joint appearance. Spokesman Michael Briggs said Sanders still supports holding a roll call vote at the convention to determine the nomination.

Democrats have coalesced around Clinton’s candidacy since she defeated Sanders in primaries last month in California and five other states, helped along by endorsements from President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and others. In a high-profile rally last month, Clinton was embraced by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a liberal stalwart popular with Sanders’ followers.

Sanders has spent the past month seeking to influence the party’s platform for the Philadelphia convention and promote electoral reforms including allowing independents to participate in future primaries. He called the platform “the most progressive” in history and hailed steps to create a \$15 an hour minimum wage, prevent Wall Street malfeasance and address climate change.

The event at a Portsmouth high school sought to project Democratic unity before Republicans formally nominate Trump next week in Cleveland but some Sanders’ supporters in the crowd did not appear to be ready to move on.

Recent polls have shown that many Sanders voters plan to back Clinton but have reservations about her honesty.

A new GenForward poll of adults ages 18 to 30 found that Clinton was struggling to make inroads among young Americans who overwhelmingly supported Sanders.

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	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room
THURSDAY	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk Slack — Arena
	2:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Barrel Racing Slack — After the Rodeo
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
FRIDAY	10:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
SATURDAY	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:30pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
	11:00pm	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — Until 3am
SUNDAY	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast Continues
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena

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