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Archbishop Elpidophoros attends peaceful protest in Brooklyn, while stressing that ‘violence begets only more violence’



The Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, attended a peaceful protest march on Wednesday in Crown Heights district of Brooklyn, at the invitation of borough President Eric Leroy Adams and New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes.

The protest was held over the death of Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old emergency medical technician who was killed when undercover police raided her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky last March.

In remarks following the march, Archbishop Elpidophoros stressed that “…I came here to Brooklyn today in order to stand in solidarity with my fellow sisters and brothers whose rights have been sorely abused. This was a peaceful protest, one without violence of any kind, and I thank all of those involved, because violence

begets only more violence.”



Greek-American police officer shot in the head

Meanwhile, while numerous peaceful protests and vigils were being held in various parts of the United States, in the wake of the shocking death of African-American George Floyd last week in Minneapolis, violent incidents were also continuing .

In the western state of Nevada, Las Vegas police officer Shay Mikalonis was showing some improvement on Wednesday following surgery, after being shot in the head on Monday night while on duty.

In a statement, Las Vegas Police association president Steve Grammas said of Mikalonis, “…His blood pressure is getting better. He is still alive and he is fighting.”

Mikalonis, a Greek-American and parishioner of the St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church of Las Vegas, was part of a large detail of Las Vegas police officers monitoring demonstrators marching to protest Floyd’s death, when some of the protesters began hurling rocks and bottles at police.

When law enforcement officers proceeded to make arrests, a gunman standing across the street fired a single shot, striking Mikalonis in the head. One suspect is in custody and charged with attempted homicide of a law enforcement officer.



Archdiocese’s director of youth & young adult ministries to Orthodoxia news agency: Orthodoxy can play a role in combating racism

In a related development, the director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America’s Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Steven Christoforou, spoke to the Orthodoxia news agency this week about the tragic developments around the United States over the past few days, in the wake of George Floyd’s demise in Minneapolis.

Christoforou touched on the issue of racism and the role that Orthodoxy can play in combating such phenomena.