

# GWIRE

WEEKLY DIGEST  
JUNE 12, 2020



**LED BY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S  
STAFF, PROTESTERS SAY,  
'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!' »**

**NEWSOM AND LAWMAKERS  
PURSUE 'MUTUALLY REPUGNANT'  
BUDGET COMPROMISE »**

**ALARMING RISE IN VIRUS CASES AS  
STATES ROLL BACK LOCKDOWNS »**





GV Wire/Jahz Tello

# LOCAL

## LED BY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S STAFF, PROTESTERS SAY, 'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!'

June 8, 2020 | David Taub

Chanting slogans like “no justice, no peace, no racist police,” hundreds marched around downtown Fresno in a lunchtime rally protesting police brutality — the latest peaceful event in the wake of George Floyd’s death.

**“This is about not just about me, but is about every person that looks like me and some that don’t.”  
— Protester Camille Slack**

Organized by the Fresno County Public Defender’s Office, the march started at its office at Fresno and L streets, continued past Fresno Police headquarters, and to the county courthouse. “We support the rights and injustices that our clients have to bear the burden of,” said organizer Dominique Quigley, a public defender.

**Related Story: When Protesters Cry ‘Defund the Police,’ What Does It Mean?**

### Eight Steps to Reform

While at the courthouse plaza, Camille Slack — lead paralegal with the public defender’s office — explained why she marched during her lunch break. “This is about not just about me, but is about every person that looks like me and some that don’t,” Slack said. “It is about calling out an inherently racist system where it’s embedded in our law enforcement. Not all officers are racist, but it is embedded in our law enforcement and it’s time for that to change.” She told the crowd that the righteous police officers need to step up. “We’re talking to the good police. You need to call for change,” Slack said.

The protesters then took a knee in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time a video shows a Minneapolis police officer placed his knee on the back of Floyd’s neck. That officer, Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. He and three other officers were fired. Slack also called for a series of reforms for police, known collectively as “#8 Can’t Wait.” It includes banning of choke and strangleholds, requires warnings before shooting,

and exhausting all alternatives before shooting. Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced changes to ban holds cutting off the carotid artery. Slack would like other basic changes. “Community policing is absolutely necessary ... treating each and every person you come in contact with like a human being,” Slack said.

**Related Story: Democrats Unveil Police Overhaul, Kneel at Capitol**

### Barricades Near Police Department

March organizers planned to march through the front of police headquarters on the Mariposa Mall, but the plaza was blocked at both ends by barricades. Instead, marchers briefly stopped in front of headquarters on N Street. Police officials say the barricades have been up since May 30 as a security precaution. They can be removed by request, as they were for a May 31 protest rally that drew more than 3,000 people. “Chief (Andy) Hall supports any kind of protest and the right to speak out,” spokesman Sgt. Jeff LaBlue said. The barricades will be removed by Wednesday.

### Future of the Police

Quigley said she supported the defund police movement, which calls for changing police department funding priorities. “I do personally. I’m not sure the office is prepared to take a position,” Quigley said. “Shifting funding to other community policies, which could help keep our community safe, is very important. Her colleague, attorney Scott Baly, didn’t see disbanding police as an option. “I don’t see how you can eliminate police altogether. But we can stop incarcerating more black people and more people overall per...

**The protesters then took a knee in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time a video shows a Minneapolis police officer placed his knee on the back of Floyd’s neck. That officer, Derek Chauvin, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder. He and three other officers were fired.**

[READ MORE »](#)





June 10, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

The Fresno Chaffee Zoo will reopen at 9 a.m. Friday, zoo executive Scott Barton said in a late morning Zoom teleconference on Wednesday. Dr. Rais Vohra, interim health officer for Fresno County, joined Barton at the zoo for the announcement. “I really want to give you kudos for the very hard work that you’ve been doing. You’ve obviously all been hard at work,” Vohra said. “Just taking care of all of the beautiful animals that you have here at the zoo.”

**Pre-Purchase Tickets**

The zoo encourages people to purchase tickets ahead of time. Plans call for allowing 1,300 guests inside at a time. “Buy your tickets (online) to ensure that you will be able to get into the zoo,” Barton said. “If we meet our mass capacity, and you’re just walking in, we may not be able to accommodate you right

away.” When you pre-purchase a ticket, you’re given a timed entry ticket. This reserves your entry time. Zoo members will enter free but will need to reserve their timed entry.

**No Paper Maps**

Barton also recommended that guests review and download the zoo’s digital map and visitors guide before arrival. Staff will not hand out paper maps, and the digital map and guide have the most up-to-date information.

**When You Arrive**

If you are early, please wait in your car until your designated arrival time. Barton said that zoo staff will try to accommodate late arrivals but cannot guarantee entry because of the capacity limits. Some areas and exhibits will remain closed in the...

[READ MORE »](#)

MERCED, CLOVIS AMONG STATE’S FASTEST-GROWING CITIES

June 10, 2020 | GV Wire

Merced and Clovis cracked the list of 10 fastest-growing cities in California, according to May data from the state Department of Finance. Merced grew at a 2.37% clip in 2019 and now has 88,120 residents. The city ranks sixth in the state in growth percentage. Clovis is the state’s 10th fastest-growing city at 2.2% overall, and No. 6 among cities with fewer than 300,000 people. Clovis added 2,566 residents in 2019 as its population climbed to 119,175.

**Robust Growth in Sacramento**

Beaumont, which is at 2,612 feet at the summit of the San Geronio Pass in Riverside County, is the state’s fastest-growing city. It added 1,845 residents in 2019 for a growth rate of 3.7%. Three Sacramento suburbs — Folsom, Rocklin, and Roseville — made the Top 10. And, Sacramento itself grew 1.1% to 510,931 residents and remained California’s sixth-biggest city. Fresno has a population of 545,769 after the latest update. The state’s fifth-largest city added 3,742 residents in 2019 and grew by...

[READ MORE »](#)



Facebook/City of Merced

COVID-19 SPIKE PUTS FRESNO COUNTY ON STATE’S RADAR

June 8, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

The California Department of Public Health is paying extra attention to Fresno County after a spike in coronavirus cases. Fresno County Department of Public Health’s Interim Health Officer Rais Vohra announced the development to reporters during a Monday afternoon Zoom call. “We’ve actually come to the attention of the state because our positivity rate has gone above 8%. That’s the threshold underneath where we need to stay at,” Vohra said. Vohra also says Fresno County’s doubling rate of the disease is now two weeks. It was three weeks not long ago. GV Wire asked Vohra if there’s any fear we may not be able to open more areas of the county on Friday when phase 3 can begin. His response: “It’s a concern.”

**California Department of Public Health**

Vohra says he believes this is a positive development because he can seek additional coronavirus help from the state. This could include: More COVID-19 testing, more resources such as PPE to at-risk residents and frontline workers...

[READ MORE »](#)





# STATE

## NEWSOM AND LAWMAKERS PURSUE 'MUTUALLY REPUGNANT' BUDGET COMPROMISE

June 9, 2020 | CalMatters

Even with the process controlled entirely by Democrats, a certain degree of tension is wired into the annual ritual of crafting a state budget in Sacramento. The spending plan, after all, is a powerful opportunity for the governor and each house of the Legislature to demonstrate their priorities in caring for 40 million Californians. So despite lots of common ground on the upcoming budget, some key disagreements have surfaced as legislative leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom hammer

**While Newsom proposed slashing \$14 billion from schools, health care and safety net programs unless the federal government sends funds by July 1, the Legislature's proposal assumes federal funding will arrive — and if it doesn't come by Oct. 1, limits cuts to \$7 billion by drawing on reserves.**

out a final deal in advance of a June 15 deadline. What is different this time: The two sides are negotiating amid a bleak economic scenario, with surging unemployment, greater demand for government services and a deficit that could be as large as \$54 billion. And that, undoubtedly, amps up the stress in their private

debates. "When you are negotiating how to cut up the pie, that is the easiest form of negotiation — particularly when you have a Democratic legislature and a Democratic governor," said Fabian Núñez, a former Assembly speaker who negotiated five budgets with then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"The challenge is how to make cuts when you don't have the funds to balance the budget... You could be from the same political party, but the priorities may or may not be the same." The fault lines this year show the Legislature and governor at odds over how to manage spending on the coronavirus pandemic, how far the state should go to help undocumented immigrants, and how much to cut schools and safety net programs if the federal government does not come through with additional aid. While Newsom proposed slashing \$14 billion from schools, health care and safety net programs

unless the federal government sends funds by July 1, the Legislature's proposal assumes federal funding will arrive — and if it doesn't come by Oct. 1, limits cuts to \$7 billion by drawing on reserves. Legislators had made clear in recent weeks that they disliked the way Newsom tied so many cuts to action in Washington, with one Democrat saying the governor's proposal amounted to "an overdependence on the federal government with an unpredictable administration."

**Another Schism Arose Over How Much the State Should Spend to Help Undocumented Immigrants**

Lawmakers also blasted Newsom's administration at a series of recent hearings for leaving them out of the loop on key decisions related to the state's pandemic response. The non-partisan Legislative Analyst urged the Legislature to "jealously guard its constitutional role and authority," so it's little surprise that lawmakers rejected Newsom's proposal to give the governor executive power to spend another \$2.8 billion related to the coronavirus emergency. Instead, the Legislature's plan would involve lawmakers in those spending decisions, at least through Aug. 31. "We anticipate this will be part of our budget discussions," said Assemblyman Phil Ting, a San Francisco Democrat who chairs the budget committee.

"We are ready to discuss how we can give the governor the proper authority so that he can watch over the state during this COVID-19 pandemic, but at the same time ensure that there's proper transparency and proper oversight." Another schism arose over how much the state should spend to help undocumented immigrants, with lawmakers wanting to go further than Newsom...

**Lawmakers also want to extend a tax break for low-income workers to include undocumented immigrants with a child under age 6, at a cost of \$65 million. Newsom rejected a similar proposal last year.**

[READ MORE »](#)





# SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL DECLINES CALLS TO CUT POLICE FUNDING

June 10, 2020 | AP News

The San Diego City Council declined calls to cut police funding and approved a budget that includes an increase for the department. The decision came at a lengthy meeting Monday despite the majority of some 400 callers and emails from more than 4,000 people urged the council to reject the mayor's plan to increase the police budget by \$27 million, to \$566 million, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported. The council approved the plan on an 8-1 vote.

The pressure to cut police funding echoed calls nationwide to slash law enforcement budgets following the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, where

the idea has received support from some city leaders. In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced last week that the city would reverse plans to boost police spending and instead redirect \$250 million from the city budget into programs for health care, jobs and "healing" aimed largely at the black community.

Although refusing the demands for police budget cuts, the San Diego council did agree to create a new Office of Race and Equality and to increase rent relief funding by nearly \$5 million, to \$15.1 million. During the council meeting, some residents called for cutting \$100 million from police...

[READ MORE »](#)



# 3 COUNTIES JOIN FRESNO IN BACKING DELAY OF CONTROVERSIAL VMT LAW

June 9, 2020 | Jim Jakobs

Supervisors in Kings, Tulare, and Merced counties voted to align themselves with Fresno County on Tuesday. The boards in Fresno's neighboring counties agreed to back a two-year delay on implementing a controversial law — SB 743 — scheduled to take effect next month. Fresno County did the same on May 26. On July 1, projects will no longer be assessed a fee by how much traffic congestion is created.

Instead, VMT is applied to new developments. For instance, if a person drives to multiple places a day — work, store, soccer practice, etc. — all of those miles are counted up. Then the VMT fee is calculated for the development. The goal, according to the law's supporters, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Some cities — Pasadena, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Oakland, for example — already are using VMT. If you drive a lot, your number will escalate the price of a new house — or even rent for a newly built apartment. That's because developers will have to...

[READ MORE »](#)



# FRESNO STATE MASTER'S DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM REGAINS ACCREDITATION

June 9, 2020 | Nancy Price

Fresno State's master's degree nursing program has regained its accreditation a year after the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education stripped it over documentation issues, the university said Tuesday afternoon. The master's program is accredited through June 2025. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education also announced the reaccreditation of the School of Nursing bachelor's degree nursing program through 2030 and initial accreditation of the online psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner post-graduate certificate program, also through 2030, the university said.

The School of Nursing learned in June 2019 that the master's degree program accreditation had been revoked when the school failed to meet the commission's documentation requirements. The program had graduated about 1,500 since it was first accredited in 1968. The commission said the master's program failed to adequately document its evaluation and assessment of student outcomes, clinical experiences, faculty...

[READ MORE »](#)





# ALARMING RISE IN VIRUS CASES AS STATES ROLL BACK LOCKDOWNS

June 11, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — States are rolling back lockdowns, but the coronavirus isn't done with the U.S. Cases are rising in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis, a worrying trend that could intensify as people return to work and venture out during the summer. In Arizona, hospitals have been told to prepare for the worst. Texas has more hospitalized COVID-19 patients than at any time before. And the governor of North Carolina said recent jumps caused him to rethink plans to reopen schools or businesses. There is no single reason for the surges. In some cases, more testing has revealed more cases. In others, local outbreaks are big enough to push statewide tallies higher. But experts think at least some are due to lifting stay-at-home orders, school and business closures, and other restrictions put in place during the spring to stem the virus's spread. The virus is also gradually fanning out. "It is a disaster that spreads," said Dr. Jay Butler, who oversees coronavirus response work at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It's not like there's an entire continental seismic shift and everyone feels the shaking all at once."

**There is no single reason for the surges. In some cases, more testing has revealed more cases. In others, local outbreaks are big enough to push statewide tallies higher. But experts think at least some are due to lifting stay-at-home orders, school and business closures, and other restrictions put in place during the spring to stem the virus's spread.**

than 100,000 newly-confirmed cases every day, according to data from Johns Hopkins University, The virus first landed on the U.S. coasts, carried by international travelers infected abroad. For months, the epicenter was in northeastern states. More recently, the biggest

increases have been in the South and the West. The AP analyzed data compiled by The COVID Tracking Project, a volunteer organization that collects coronavirus testing data in the United States. The analysis found that in 21 states as of Monday, the rolling seven-day average of new cases per capita was higher than the average seven days earlier. Some worry the situation may get worse as social distancing restrictions lift and more people gather. One concern is that large recent racial justice protests across the country might spark at least some spread of the virus. Another: President Donald Trump this week said he's planning to hold rallies that may draw thousands of people. He will hold them in four states — Arizona, Florida, Oklahoma, and Texas. All of them are among the states with rising cases identified in the AP analysis.

Here's what's driving increases in some of the states with notable upticks:

## Arizona

Republican Gov. Doug Ducey ended Arizona's stay-at-home order on May 15 and eased restrictions on businesses. Arizona residents who were cooped up for six weeks flooded Phoenix-area bar districts, ignoring social distancing guidelines. The state began seeing a surge of new cases and hospitalizations about 10 days later. "It seems pretty clear to me that what we're seeing is directly related to the end of the stay-at-home order," said Will Humble, executive director of the Arizona Public Health Association. It wasn't just that the order ended: There were no requirements to wear face masks, no major increases in contact tracing to spot and stop evolving outbreaks, and no scale-up of infection...

**Some worry the situation may get worse as social distancing restrictions lift and more people gather. One concern is that large recent racial justice protests across the country might spark at least some spread of the virus.**

[READ MORE »](#)





Godofredo A. Vasquez/Houston Chronicle via AP, Pool

# 'HE IS GOING TO CHANGE THE WORLD': FUNERAL HELD FOR FLOYD

June 10, 2020 | AP News

HOUSTON — George Floyd was fondly remembered Tuesday as “Big Floyd” — a father and brother, athlete and neighborhood mentor, and now a catalyst for change — at a funeral for the black man whose death has sparked a global reckoning over police brutality and racial prejudice.

More than 500 mourners wearing masks against the coronavirus packed a Houston church a little more than two weeks after Floyd was pinned to the pavement by a white Minneapolis police officer who put a knee on his neck for what prosecutors said was 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Cellphone video

of the encounter, including Floyd’s pleas of “I can’t breathe,” ignited protests and scattered violence across the U.S. and around the world, turning the 46-year-old Floyd — a man who in life was little known beyond the public housing project where he was raised in Houston’s Third Ward — into a worldwide symbol of injustice.

“Third Ward, Cuney Homes, that’s where he was born at,” Floyd’s brother, Rodney, told mourners at the Fountain of Praise church. “But everybody is going to remember him around the world. He is going to change the world...”

[READ MORE »](#)



AP/Seth Wenig

# 'ALL EYES' ON NEW YORK: REOPENING TESTS CITY TORN BY CRISES

June 8, 2020 | AP News

NEW YORK — Scarred by the deadliest coronavirus outbreak in the nation, New York City gradually began reopening Monday in a turning point in the three-month-long crisis and a life-and-death test of the city’s discipline. With the virus in check — at least for now — stores previously deemed non-essential were cleared to reopen for delivery and curbside pickup, though customers cannot yet browse inside. Construction, manufacturing and wholesalers also received the go-ahead to resume work.

“This is the place where it was going to be the hardest to make a comeback, and yet New York City is so strong and resilient, we are making that comeback,” Mayor Bill de Blasio said. But he warned the city against letting its guard down and jeopardizing its hard-won progress against the virus: “Let’s hold onto it. Let’s build on it.” Unrest over racism and police brutality could compound the challenges facing...

[READ MORE »](#)

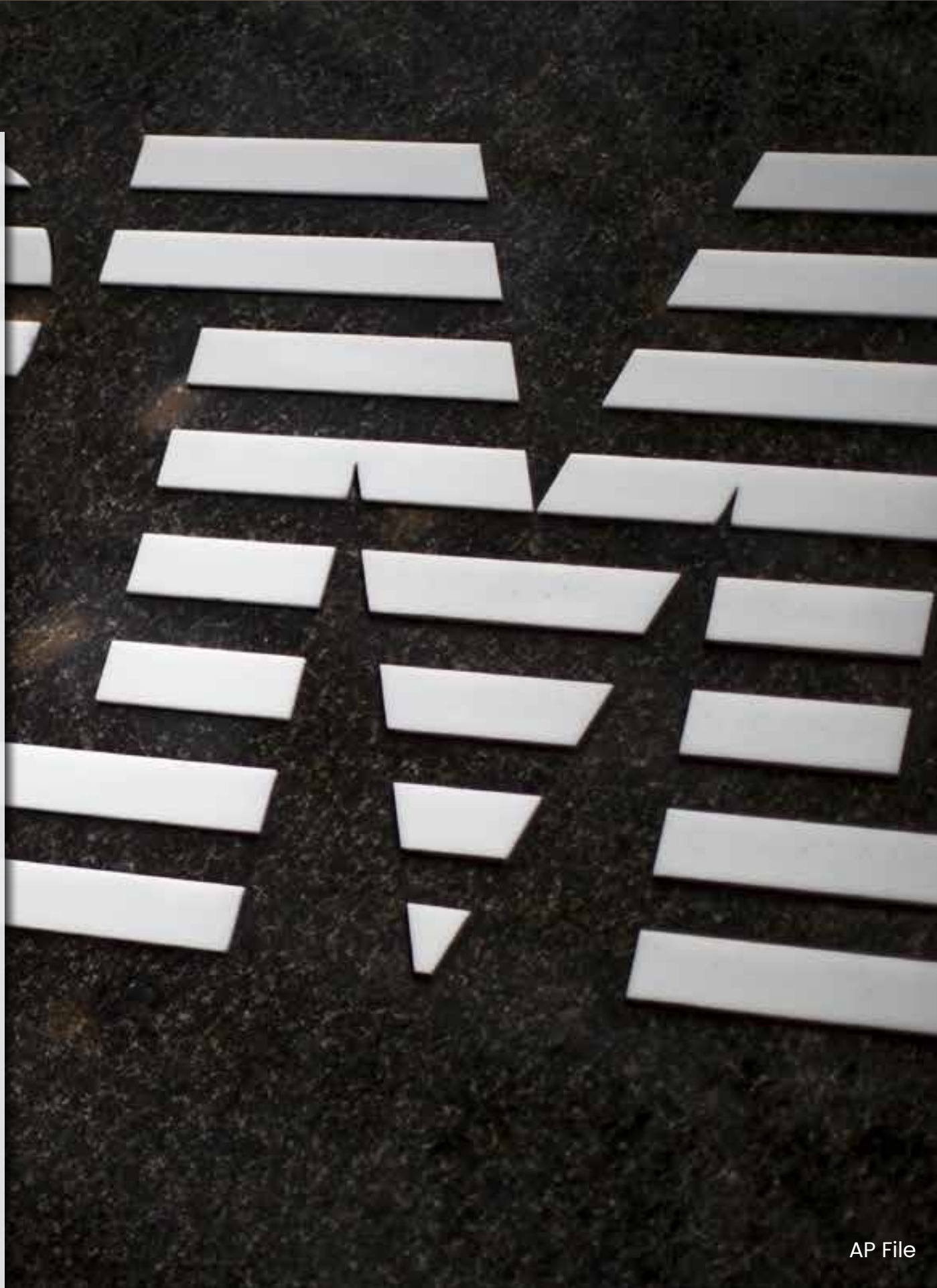
# IBM QUILTS FACIAL RECOGNITION, JOINS CALL FOR POLICE REFORMS

June 9, 2020 | AP News

IBM says it is getting out of the facial recognition business over concern about how it can be used for mass surveillance and racial profiling. A letter to U.S. lawmakers Monday from new IBM CEO Arvind Krishna said the tech giant “has sunset its general purpose facial recognition and analysis software products.”

Krishna was addressing Democrats who have been working on police reform legislation in Congress in response to the death of George Floyd and others in law enforcement interactions that have sparked a worldwide reckoning over racial injustice. The sweeping reform package could include restrictions on police use of facial recognition. IBM had previously tested its facial recognition software with the New York Police Department but it’s not clear if it has existing contracts with other governments. Police use of facial recognition has come under heightened scrutiny after researchers found...

[READ MORE »](#)







Satellite image ©2020 Maxar Technologies via AP

# WORLD

## AMID US TENSION, IRAN BUILDS FAKE AIRCRAFT CARRIER TO ATTACK

June 9, 2020 | AP News

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — As tensions remain high between Iran and the U.S., the Islamic Republic appears to have constructed a new mock-up of an aircraft carrier off its southern coast for potential live-fire drills. The faux foe, seen in satellite photographs obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, its narrow mouth where 20% of all the world's oil passes through.

The faux foe, seen in satellite photographs obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the U.S. Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, its narrow mouth where 20% of all the world's oil passes through.

While not yet acknowledged by Iranian officials, the replica's appearance in the port city of Bandar Abbas suggests Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is preparing an encore of a similar mock-sinking it conducted in 2015. It also comes as Iran announced Tuesday it will execute a man it accused of sharing details on the movements of the Guard's Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the U.S. killed in a January drone strike in Baghdad. The replica carries 16 mock-ups of fighter jets on its deck, according to satellite photos taken by Maxar Technologies. The vessel appears to be some 200 meters (650 feet) long and 50 meters (160 feet) wide. A real Nimitz is over 300 meters (980 feet) long and 75 meters (245 feet) wide.

The fake carrier sits just a short distance away from the parking lot in which the Guard unveiled over 100 new speedboats in May, the kind it routinely employs in tense encounters between Iranian sailors and the U.S. Navy. Those boats carry both mounted machine guns and missiles. The mock-up, which first began to be noticed among defense and intelligence analysts in January, strongly resembles a similar one used in February 2015 during a military exercise called "Great Prophet

9." During that drill, Iran swarmed the fake aircraft carrier with speedboats firing machine guns and rockets. Surface-to-sea missiles later targeted and destroyed the fake carrier. "American aircraft carriers are very big ammunition depots housing a lot of missiles, rockets, torpedoes and everything else," the Guard's then-navy chief, Adm. Ali Fadavi, said on state television at the time.

### Last Summer Saw a Series of Attacks and Incidents Further Ramp up Tensions

That drill, however, came as Iran and world powers remained locked in negotiations over Tehran's nuclear program. Today, the deal born of those negotiations is in tatters. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in May 2018. Iran later responded by slowly abandoning nearly every tenant of the agreement, though it still allows U.N. inspectors access to its nuclear sites. Last summer saw a series of attacks and incidents further ramp up tensions between Iran and the U.S. They reached a crescendo with the Jan. 3 strike near Baghdad International Airport that killed Soleimani, head of the Guard's expeditionary Quds, or Jerusalem, Force. Also on Tuesday, judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said Iranian citizen Mahmoud Mousavi Majd had been convicted in a Revolutionary Court, which handles security cases behind closed doors. Esmaili accused Majd of receiving money for allegedly sharing security information on the Guard and the Quds Force, as well as the "positions and movement routes" of Soleimani. Majd was "linked to the CIA and the Mossad," the Israeli intelligence agency, Esmaili alleged, without providing evidence. Both the CIA and the Israeli prime minister's office, which oversees the...

Iran retaliated for Soleimani's killing with a ballistic missile strike Jan. 8 targeting U.S. forces in Iraq, an assault that left over 100 American troops with serious brain injuries.

READ MORE »





## US PROSECUTORS SPAR WITH PRINCE ANDREW IN EPSTEIN PROBE

June 9, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — U.S. prosecutors and attorneys for Britain’s Prince Andrew sniped at one another across the Atlantic on Monday, each saying the other side was to blame for the duke’s failure to participate in the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking probe.

Andrew’s lawyers said in a statement that he has offered three times this year to speak with U.S. investigators after being assured that he “is not and has never been a ‘target’ of their criminal investigations into Epstein.” That offer, though, came with a request that “our co-operation and any interview arrangements would remain confidential,” said the

firm Blackfords LLP in London. “Unfortunately, the DOJ has reacted to the first two offers by breaching their own confidentiality rules and claiming that the Duke has offered zero cooperation. In doing so, they are perhaps seeking publicity rather than accepting the assistance proffered,” the lawyers said.

Hours later, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Geoffrey S. Berman, issued a statement saying the prince had tried to “falsely portray himself to the public as eager and willing to cooperate” even as he repeatedly declined to schedule an interview. “If Prince Andrew is, in fact, serious about...

[READ MORE »](#)



## BP TO CUT 10,000 JOBS WORLDWIDE AMID VIRUS PANDEMIC

June 8, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — Oil and gas company BP announced Monday that it will slash its global workforce by 10,000 jobs as the COVID-19 pandemic slams the energy industry. Chief Executive Bernard Looney said that the cuts will affect office-based roles in BP’s global workforce of 70,000 people and come mostly this year. The changes are expected to significantly affect senior levels, cutting the number of group leaders by a third.

“We are spending much, much more than we make – I am talking millions of dollars, every day,” Looney said in an email to staff that revealed that net debt rose by \$6 billion in the first quarter. “We have to spend less money.” He pledged to bring down capital expenditure by 25% this year, a reduction of around \$3 billion. He also said that it costs \$22 billion a year to run the company, including \$8 billion in people costs. “So we are driving down those operating costs by \$2.5 billion in 2021 – and we will likely have to go even further,” he...

[READ MORE »](#)

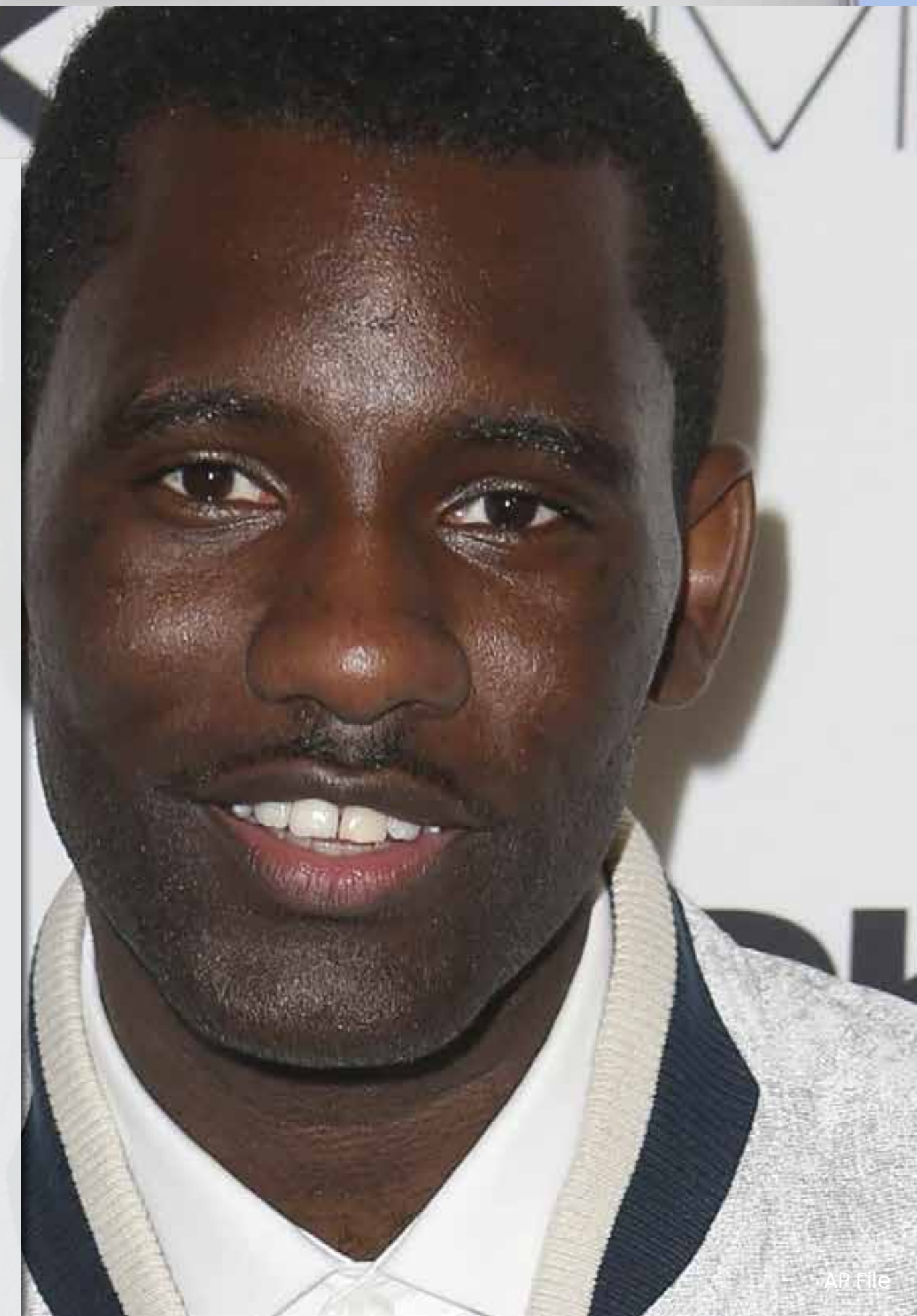
## LONDON MAYOR SEEKS ANSWERS OVER TASER USE ON RAPPER’S FATHER

June 10, 2020 | AP News

LONDON — London’s mayor has called for an urgent investigation after rapper Wretch 32 released a video of his father being tasered in his home by a British police officer. The 36-second clip posted late Tuesday on Twitter shows police entering a house. An officer says “Police officer with a Taser. Stay where you are” before a man — 62-year-old Millard Scott — tumbles down a flight of stairs. Police officers are then seen asking the man if he is OK.

Wretch 32 wrote: “This is how the police think they can treat a 62-year-old black man in Tottenham but this 1 happens to be my dad.” The rapper, 35, told ITV News there has been “no progression” since he grew up watching his father and his uncle “fight against police brutality.” “I now have to have the same conversations ( with my children) that my dad and my uncle and my grandparents and my parents had with me,” he said. Large demonstrations have been held across the U.K...

[READ MORE »](#)







[GVWIRE.COM](https://gvwire.com) [f](#) GV WIRE [t](#) @GVWIRE [i](#) @GVWIRE

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER