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## Obama defends Black Lives Matter movement

By Darlene Superville  
WASHINGTON (AP) - Defending the Black Lives Matter movement, President Barack Obama said Oct. 22 the protests are giving voice to a problem happening only in African-American communities, adding, "We, as a society, particularly given our history, have to take this seriously."

Obama said the movement, which sprung up after the deaths of unarmed black men in Florida, Missouri and elsewhere, quickly came to be viewed as being opposed to police and suggesting that other people's lives don't matter. Opponents have countered that "all lives matter."

At the conclusion of a White House forum on criminal justice, Obama said he wanted to make a final point about the nexus of race and the criminal justice system before launching into his defense of the movement.

"I think everybody understands all lives matter," Obama said. "I think the reason that the organizers used the phrase 'Black Lives Matter' was not because they were suggesting nobody else's lives matter. Rather, what they were suggesting was there is a specific problem that's happening in the African-American community that's not happening in other communities. 'And that is a legitimate issue that we've got to address.'"

Police relations with minority communities and the deaths of unarmed black men have been topics of great interest since the shootings of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012 in Florida and 18-year-old Michael Brown in 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. Those deaths, and others of black women, have inspired protests around the country under the "Black Lives Matter" moniker.

Obama paired his defense of the Black Lives Matter movement with praise for police and other law enforcement officials. Some police groups have been unhappy with Obama's response to the deaths of the unarmed black men. The president lately seems to be making the extra effort to publicly praise police officers for willingly taking on a dangerous assignment.

He did so while participating in a forum on drug abuse Oct. 21 in Charleston, West Virginia, and next week he's scheduled to address the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

At the White House, Obama said there are specific concerns about whether blacks in certain areas are treated unfairly or are more frequently subjected to excessive force by police.

But the president said people should also "understand the overwhelming majority of law enforcement's doing the right thing and wants to do the right thing" and "recognize that police officers have a really tough job and we're sending them into really tough neighborhoods that sometimes are really dangerous and they've got to make split-second decisions."

He said people shouldn't be too sanctimonious about situations that can sometimes be ambiguous.

"But having said all that, we as a society, particularly given our history, have to take this seriously," Obama said. "And one of the ways of avoiding the politics of this and losing the moment is everybody just stepping back for a second and understanding that the African-American community is not just making this up."



President Barack Obama holds two youngsters while posing for a photo with them during halftime of the Chicago Bulls-Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game at the United Center in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

## Republican Christie: Black Lives Matter 'create' call to kill officers

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Black Lives Matter movement is creating an environment that can put police officers at risk, Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie said Oct. 25, accusing President Barack Obama of supporting the movement, encouraging "lawlessness" and not backing up law enforcement.

"I don't believe that movement should be justified when they are calling for the murder of police officers," Christie said on CBS' "Face the Nation." Told that some individual members have been recorded calling for the deaths of officers, Christie replied that the environment is "what the movement is creating."

Black Lives Matter was established after the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed teen, by a neighborhood watch enthusiast, and has become an issue in the 2016 presidential campaign. The group said on its Facebook page in September that conservatives are trying to turn the movement into a danger to officers.

"We're targeting the brutal system of policing, not individual police," the movement said in its statement. "The Black Lives Matter Network seeks to end the system of policing that allows for unchecked violence against black people."

Police groups have bristled at that comment and pointed out people in marches drawing awareness to the issue have been recorded chanting for the deaths of police officers. During a protest outside Minnesota's state fair this summer, for example, some marchers were recorded chanting to fry police "like bacon." Earlier this month, the parents of slain black men and women were featured speakers at the "Justice or Else" march marking the 20-year anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington.

President Barack Obama last week defended the Black Lives Matter movement, noting protests are giving voice to a problem happening only in African-American communities.

"We, as a society, particularly given our history, have to take this seriously," Obama said. The movement has become an issue in the presidential campaign. Some have taken its name as an implication that other people's lives don't matter, and respond by saying, "All lives matter."

Democratic presidential hopeful Martin O'Malley initially took that tack but apologized last summer. At the Democratic presidential debate earlier this month, he joined the party's other presidential hopefuls in giving a nod to the movement. African-Americans overwhelmingly vote for Democrats.

"Black lives matter, and we have a lot of work to do to reform our criminal justice system, and to address race relations in our country," O'Malley said.

## With new SEC nominees, 4 of 5 commissioners would be women

By Marcy Gordon

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Barack Obama is nominating two women, both attorneys and academics at Washington-area universities, as members of the Securities and Exchange Commission. If they are confirmed by the Senate, four of the five SEC commissioners will be women, a first for the agency.

The nominees, announced Oct. 20, are Lisa Fairfax, a Democrat, who teaches law at George Washington University, and Hester Peirce, a Republican, who heads a financial markets program at George Mason University and was formerly a Senate aide.

The independent agency oversees Wall Street and the financial markets. It is headed by Mary Jo White, a former federal prosecutor and attorney in private practice. White is an Independent. The other two commissioners are Kara Stein, a Democrat, and Michael Piwowar, a Republican.

Fairfax is a law professor and director for programs at George Washington University's Center for Law, Economics and Finance. She also has taught at Georgetown University Law Center and the University of Maryland School of Law. From 1995 to 2000, she was an associate at the law firm Ropes & Gray. Fairfax is an expert in corporate governance and held positions at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the securities industry's self-policing body. If confirmed, she would become the third African-American commissioner in the SEC's history.

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Ms. Tania Butler Davis

## Eagle Soars High In Aeronautics

North Carolina Central University alumna Tania Butler Davis was honored with a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Space Flight Awareness Award for her work at Johnson Space Center.

The award was presented in New Orleans on August 12, 2015, in recognition of Davis's accomplishments at NASA in her role as lead procurement analyst. In this position, she develops procurement strategies, selects key procurement milestones for headquarters review, reviews draft and final solicitations and provides guidance for critical acquisitions.

Davis obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from NCCU in 1994 and a master's in business administration from Johns Hopkins University in 2000.

After graduation, Davis began a federal government career as an acquisition intern with Naval Air Systems Command in 1994. Prior to her appointment at NASA, she worked at the Naval Air Systems Command and the Internal Revenue Service. Davis has also served as an adjunct professor at Bowie State University.

Davis became a life member of the NCCU Alumni Association in 2001. She served two terms from 2010 - 2014 as NCCU Alumni Association national president. Prior to her election as president she was elected national vice-president. Davis was also Ms. Alumni 1995-1996.

In addition to being an active alumna, she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., National Contract Management Association, NAACP and the National Black MBA Association.

## Comey: FBI used aerial surveillance above Ferguson

By Eric Tucker

WASHINGTON (AP) - FBI Director Jim Comey says the agency used its aircraft above Ferguson, Missouri, last year to help local law enforcement keep track of unrest on the ground.

Comey did not go into details during a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on Oct. 22, including how long the surveillance lasted.

But in response to questioning, he did say that the FBI uses air-planes during investigations of specific suspects in criminal, terrorism and espionage investigations and to help local police during emergencies.

He said the FBI never uses its planes for mass surveillance. When planes are flown above large crowds and gatherings at the request of local law enforcement, the purpose is to look for violence and trouble spots. A plane was also flown above riots in Baltimore last April.