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A tagged wall at the 12th St. Oakland City Center BART station on May 30, 2020, following an overnight protest downtown in response to the police killing of George Floyd.

Photo: Kellie Hwang /

BART closed nine stations as demonstrations over the death of George Floyd came to a boil Sunday night while looters ransacked shopping malls throughout the Bay Area.

Agency staff said they looked at threats of violent activity or sightings of looters in considering which stations to shut down. Ultimately, the list spread from urban centers

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But the closures caught some city officials by surprise. Some stations were miles away from any civil disturbances on Sunday. And law enforcement has not presented any evidence indicating that looters use public transit.

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