



Needham Police Department

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First and foremost, the senseless killing of George Floyd is a tragedy. We denounce the actions and inactions of the police officers involved that resulted in the death of Floyd. This type of behavior is unacceptable and not in accordance with the high standards and professionalism we hold all Officers to. We are heartbroken for the family of George Floyd.

While what happened to George Floyd happened 1,400 miles away from Needham, it resonates deeply with all of us here. While it may be uncomfortable to talk about racism, it's only by speaking about it that we can begin to overcome it.

We understand and support the peaceful protest of police brutality against people of color past and present. We are listening to your messages of love, grief, anger and call for justice. We see your pain. We see your anger and frustration. We promise to do better by you. We will support necessary reform. We support you and stand with you.

I am proud of the men and women of the Needham Police Department who come to work every day to provide the highest level of professional police services to all people they encounter. Police Officers most often say that they took this job to help, serve and protect people. This must be ALL people regardless of differences. There is no exception. We will continue to strive to earn trust and respect. There must be change in the wake of this tragedy. We will strive to preserve life above all else. This was clearly not the case in this tragedy and others like it. We will continue to train and relay that message to make sure that it is the case with our Officers from the top down. Inclusion, mutual respect, and partnerships will be our driving force.

Respectfully,

John J. Schlittler
Chief of Police