



Village of Whitefish Bay Police Department  
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### **Statement on the Homicide of George Floyd**

I and the members of the Whitefish Bay Police Department both collectively, and individually, are appalled, angry and saddened by the actions and inactions of the police officers in the homicide of George Floyd. The actions and inactions of those police officers are inexplicable.

Your Police Department values diversity. Four of our last 7 new officer hires were people of color or women. The people we hire understand that this is a community that values humanity. Officers we hire must recognize this and treat all people professionally and with compassion when performing their expected duties. All of our hires are approved by a civilian board made up of citizens from Whitefish Bay. We only hire people whose past history has shown that they have the necessary interpersonal communication skills to work with the people who live and travel through Whitefish Bay.

We regularly provide educational offerings to improve our officers' capacities. Last June all members of the department undertook a diversity training class. All of our officers have completed Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.) C.I.T. is a 40 hour program that improves the officers understanding and abilities in dealing with people who are in emotional or mental crisis. Interactive de-escalation training is a significant part of C.I.T. C.I.T. reinforces the importance of listening to those we serve. We do not train or authorize the use of strangleholds or chokeholds.

We value transparency and that is why I instituted a body worn camera system last year. This program was enthusiastically received by our officers. It captures them doing the right things at the right time. I value the cameras for that reason as well. Additionally it helps officers act professionally when they are having a bad day or are being challenged. This reinforces acting on their training and not their emotions. Further, we are one of the first departments in metro Milwaukee to attach "side arm signals" to our officers' holsters. When an officer draws his weapon; their body camera is automatically engaged as well as any other officer's body camera in the vicinity.

We understand that the awful actions of those police officers against George Floyd caused much pain and anger. We will listen to our community and we will partake in training and education that is offered to reduce bias based actions. We will continually look for training that will provide officers with the tools to increase their de-escalation abilities. We are interested in hearing specific ideas and actions that you think will enable us be more culturally competent. Please feel free to share these ideas or your concerns with me.

Michael D. Young  
Chief of Police

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