



June 3, 2020

Dear Farmington Community,

First and foremost, the Town of Farmington's sincere sympathies are with George Floyd's family and the entire Minneapolis community. The death of Mr. Floyd is a tragedy and we are disgusted. It is intolerable how someone sworn to protect and serve could do this, while other officers stood by and failed to intervene. Unfortunately, these actions in Minnesota erode the layers of trust, confidence and goodwill that so many police officers have built within their communities.

Collectively, we all need to work harder. This country was founded on and has maintained the ideal of equality. Yet, in 2020 we have still not achieved this ideal. Everyone has the right to express their thoughts and feelings in a free nation. The Town of Farmington supports peaceful protests. Social injustice should be vilified for what it is, and every community should work to ease the tensions it creates. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Social injustice should have no footing in our society.

The Farmington Police Department works every day to uphold the high standards that all sworn officers should abide by. The Farmington Police Department is both a Nationally and State accredited police department. Obtaining and maintaining these accreditations demands that our police officers are fully trained and follow very strict protocols in all areas of policing and most certainly those surrounding social justice. The Town has and demands a zero-tolerance policy to any police brutality. The mission statement of the Farmington Police Department, states, in part, that the Police Department will... "Work in cooperation with the community to preserve and improve the quality of life, making the Town a safer, more pleasant place to live, work and visit". The department strives to carry out this mission while respecting the dignity and rights of all with whom they come in contact and with respect for the trust and faith that the citizens of the community have placed in them. Our Police Chief has personally been involved in drafting legislation to increase police accountability and transparency in the State (Public Act 19-90).

As a Town and as a Police Department, we will continue to engage with our citizenry and work tirelessly to maintain good community relations. Farmington should strive to be known as a community of equality and justice for all people. We truly hope that the nation and our town can grow from George Floyd's death. We hope that this tragedy can continue to lay the path towards a stronger more unified America.

The Town of Farmington, and more than ever, the Town of Farmington Police Department, stands as one with our community.

Sincerely,

C.J. Thomas
Town Council Chairman

Kathleen Blonski
Town Manager

Paul Melanson
Chief of Police