

**Statement Regarding the Death of George Floyd**  
**June 5, 2020**

As the Mayor of the City of Portage, I believe that it is important for the city to address a crisis head on. The current civil unrest coupled with the COVID pandemic has left us all shaken and searching for solutions. Each demonstrates how an incident in another part of the world affects every one of us. I assure you that the City of Portage is managing and monitoring both situations.

We have all witnessed the horrific murder of George Floyd. Each time I view it, I am shocked at the complete disregard for another person's life. There are no excuses. Mr. Floyd was murdered and the four men responsible must be prosecuted.

I'm proud of the fact that here in the City of Portage we have a "zero tolerance" policy. If one of our public safety officers ever violates a person's civil rights, they will be terminated immediately and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Period.

As we all know, public safety officers are also First Responders. These men and women have shepherded us through the pandemic for the past three months. They were the ones that answered emergency calls while we all stayed safe in our homes.

First responders put their lives on the line day after day to ensure that our neighborhoods remain safe, that businesses closed due to the pandemic are unharmed, and that those in need of transport to the hospital arrive safely. They were—and are—our heroes.

As Mayor, I take pride in our public safety. I am in awe of their daily acts of selflessness. I support them and will continue to do so. We continuously re-evaluate our procedures and training to make sure they have all of the tools they need to perform their duties fairly and effectively. Every day, every time, for everyone.