

Provincetown Police Chief Jim Golden
Statement- Select Board Meeting June 1, 2020

Chief's Corner,

I have been asked as your Police Chief to comment about the deeply troubling events in Minnesota last Monday, involving the in-custody death of George Floyd. I purposely held off posting this message here until I could deliver it directly to the community last night during the Select Board meeting.

While I try to never comment on these cases until the investigation is complete, what I saw is so disturbing it makes me sick to my stomach. Watching the video shook me to my core. I do not need to wait for an official report to understand that the officers involved in the situation did not follow proper police procedure. It doesn't matter what the man did, once the handcuffs were on, it's over, period! What happened in the video represent at the very least a frightful and deeply disturbing lapse in training and standard police procedure and at the very worst they represent a willful act of misconduct which resulted in the death of a human being. Any law enforcement officer who doesn't see a serious problem with that, needs to turn their badge in. Police departments are lifesaving organizations, not life-taking organizations.

Although it did not occur in our area, the death of Mr. Floyd at the hands of police officers impacts us all. It disrupts and fractures the trust that our community has in their police department. The core of our mission in policing, is to protect and serve. It's simplistic and to the point. To accomplish this, we must be committed to inclusion and equity. We must want all people to feel welcome in our community and to have confidence in the services that we provide. We must treat everyone with respect and dignity.

I am a member of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. On Friday they issued the following statement on behalf of all of us.

"The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, representing Police Chiefs in all 351 cities and towns and most college campuses, denounced the egregious actions by four members of the Minneapolis Police Department, whether by action or inaction, that resulted in the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. Our Massachusetts Police Officers have thoroughly embraced the six pillars of the principles embodied in the final report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, and remain committed to professional conduct, democratic policing and procedural justice for all people." I take great pride in the work that we do as your hometown police department.

Our police officers continuously rise to the increasing challenges we face and provide a professional level of service.

The men and women of the Provincetown Police Department add our sincerest condolences to Mr. Floyd's family and friends and to all who grieve his death.