



Jack D. Buckley
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Jack D. Buckley
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To the Community of Medford,

On behalf of the entire Medford Police Department, I wish to express my sincere sympathy and offer condolence to the family and friends of Mr. George Floyd.

I, like most of you, have viewed the eyewitness video, heard the accounts of other witnesses via the media, and have carefully read numerous reports of what appears to have happened at the hands of several Minneapolis, MN police officers. By all accounts, George Floyd died because of the actions of the police. By all accounts, George Floyd died because of the inaction of several other police officers. By all accounts, George Floyd died because of poor police policy.

It is clear that George Floyd died inhumanely and unnecessarily, in the custody of Minneapolis, MN police officers.

As police officers, we are sworn to protect our community. We are sworn to uphold the law. We are sworn to faithfully and impartially discharge our duties. The Minneapolis police officers responsible for the death of George Floyd did none of this.

I am proud to be a police officer. I am proud to lead a police department of fine women and men who openly condemn what happened in Minneapolis. While no single incident should define a City or its police department, we as police officers must be willing to stand up and denounce the wrong, especially when the wrong is committed by the police. Perhaps the most visible sign of change in policing can be reflected in the swift condemnation of these events by police officers and leaders across our nation.

It saddens me greatly to see the senseless death of another black man in police custody. The police have an extraordinarily difficult job to do. We put our lives on the line daily, and we are proud to do so to protect and serve our communities. Yet, once again, policing and policy both failed. It failed at its most basic level. It failed because of a simple lack of humanity.

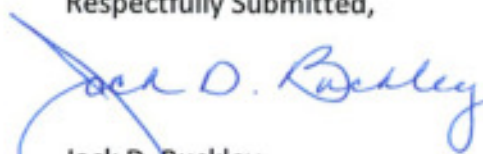
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I cannot rationalize, nor can I comprehend how multiple police officers did nothing while a human being begged for his life. No one should ever beg a police officer to spare their life. There is no greater purpose in policing than to be a servant of humanity. All police officers must support a culture and practice that reflects the values of protection and promotes the dignity of all.

Police departments, including the Medford Police Department, continue to work diligently to improve our relationship with our communities. We openly work hard to build trust and to legitimize our role within communities. We have increased our training with regard to de-escalation tactics. We are committed to training with regard to implicit bias and we are committed to reducing the use of force in all public encounters. Police departments across this country were making positive and productive strides with regard to race relations.

The Medford Police Department remains committed to a safe community and to increasing the police department's responsiveness. We will continue to build upon the earned trust the residents of Medford have placed in us. The Medford Police Department will continue to serve our community well.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack D. Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Jack D. Buckley
Chief of Police