



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE

Lisa D. Parker, Chief of Police

**1 Colonial Drive
Manchester, NJ 08759-3898**

To the Manchester Community,

First and foremost, I think it is important to publically state that the murder of George Floyd is an egregious act against humanity, and an appalling atrocity for which I am anxiously waiting to see justice for the Floyd family. I wholeheartedly support the firing and criminal charging of the involved officers. I firmly believe that there is no place in law enforcement for bad cops who tarnish the badge or bring disrepute to the profession, by violating citizens' rights or engaging in criminal activity, much like what occurred in Minnesota.

As a result of this terrible event, there have and continue to be demonstrations across the United States. Citizens from all walks of life are exercising their 1st Amendment rights and engaging in demonstrations in response to the horrific acts which took place in Minnesota and New Jersey is no exception. As police officers, we fully support everyone's 1st Amendment rights to peacefully protest and hold lawful demonstrations. These fundamental rights are woven into those principles that our country was founded upon. In the days and weeks following the tragic and unnecessary loss of George Floyd, the message that needed to be heard seems to have been lost, as news headlines have so quickly shifted to the civil unrest that is taking place in many of our major cities. As police officers who care about the important and necessary message that the George Floyd incident brings to light, it is incumbent upon us to be a part of the ongoing efforts that bring peace, continued accountability, transparency, and restorative faith in policing to all of our residents. I want the members of our community to know that I will be leading the department's efforts in doing our part to positively affect the climate facing our nation.

Secondly, as a police chief who has 31 years of service in this profession, I have and will continue to believe in the importance of transparency. I am deeply saddened by the broad-brush application portrayed by some media that all police officers use excessive force, are racist, and their hearts are filled with bigotry and hatred towards people of color. This is simply not the truth and we need to reassure our community that what happened in Minnesota will never happen in Manchester Township. In New Jersey and specifically in Manchester, we have taken many steps to ensure an incident like the one in Minnesota will not occur here.

Last but not least, I would be remiss if I did not highlight the vital role that our community and political leaders play in our community's quest to come together with one united message of peace. This is the first step in moving us in the right direction as we work towards reinforcing our community's faith and trust in policing agencies. Additionally, we can never pass up an opportunity to promote positive change in policing. I want to make sure the Manchester Police message is clear and concise...

“We do not support the actions taken by any of the officers involved in the George Floyd incident. The firing and subsequent criminal charging of these officers was fully justified and we believe justice should be served.”

We also want to make it clear that we fully support all peaceful assemblies within our jurisdictional boundaries. We want our community (especially the members of our black community), and those who visit or pass through our township to feel safe and secure. Our community relationships remain an important focal point in our daily contacts with the public. We continue to strive to strengthen these relationships through the many programs we have implemented which have increased positive community engagement. We understand each and every contact with the public is an opportunity to show our high level of professionalism, unilateral application of the law and our commitment to serve the needs of our community. We stand united with our community and are fully committed to serving and protecting our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chief Lisa D. Parker".

Lisa D. Parker
Chief of Police