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Many of us are hurting right now. We have watched the brutal, unnecessary killing of a fellow American. The killing of yet another unarmed Black man, once again at the hands of law enforcement officers. We say his name: George Floyd. We know it was wrong.

How can this happen? What are we to learn? How can we fight the terrible consequences of systemic racism? Justice demands that we speak out. Justice demands that we re-evaluate our hiring practices, our training, and ourselves. This country has watched people die at the hands of law enforcement who deserved due process of law and protection of their lives. You deserve better. This Office will be better.

We are part of the law enforcement family. We do not ask for blanket trust. We embrace your oversight. We recognize your suspicion of us is based on both history and current events. We also know that this system only works with your support. We need you. We know that trust is earned and not freely given. We will earn your trust.

Despair has grown for many of us, but we hold onto hope. We keep the faith. We strive for better days. This family will continue to work every day to improve and to serve and protect every member of this community. We will take a hard look in the mirror. We will have difficult conversations. We will make changes where necessary. We will shine the light of truth wherever evil is found. Justice will be blind and justice will be done. To be unequivocally clear about where we stand, we affirm that Black lives matter. And we strive to prove that by our actions.


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