

**KENSINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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**Walt Schuld**  
Interim Chief of  
Police

June 1, 2020

Dear Kensington Community,

I would like to take a moment to speak with you concerning the tragic death of George Floyd. I have talked to several residents who are understandably outraged. Let me assure you the Kensington Police Department, as well as every law enforcement official that I have talked to, are equally upset. There is anger and frustration for the victim, his family, for the stain it puts on law enforcement, and the harm it has caused in the relationship between the police and our community. Excessive force, racism, or any type of bias has no place in a police department or in a community. That partnership, between the police and the community, is critically important to us. Your police department is dedicated to providing an exceptional level of service to our residents, through professional conduct and an emphasis on maintaining the safety and wellbeing of the community. The actions in Minneapolis do not in any way represent Kensington PD or Law Enforcement in general.

The methods employed and the amount of force used in Minneapolis was certainly not a tactic or technique Kensington Police Officers are trained in or use. We have strict procedures on the use of force, and every Kensington officer has been trained to adhere to these guidelines.

I have talked with our officers and there is a unanimous sense of anger over Mr. Floyd's death, and an unshakable belief that the use of force employed was excessive, unwarranted, and unreasonable. The officer is being held accountable and was charged with murder and manslaughter. I am heartened by the fact that on Sunday afternoon our residents peacefully marched in solidarity to show their support. The organizer worked closely with the police department to ensure the safety of the participants. Cooperation between the police and the community not only works, but it helps maintain safety even in times of turmoil.

Unfortunately, some individuals are using this tragedy as an opportunity for violence and vandalism. This tarnishes the memory of George Floyd and the purpose of the protest. The number one responsibility of your police department is to protect the life and property of its residents and we will continue to provide that service to the best of our ability.

I look forward to working with the Kensington residents to work through this tragedy and improve our relationship and our community.

Thank you,

Walt Schuld  
Interim Police Chief