

A Statement to the Community of Laurel from Mayor Craig A. Moe

On May 25, 2020, Memorial Day, a Minneapolis Police Officer brutally murdered George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was handcuffed and pinned to the ground on his stomach, by kneeling on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Two other Minneapolis Police Officers also kneeled on Mr. Floyd's back, and a third looked on-ignoring his cries that he could not breathe.

Like so many, I too, was shocked at such an event, captured on cell phone video, for the entire world to see. Unfortunately, this is nothing new to the Black Community. Until, we as Americans address issues of wealth, income inequality, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power and education, systemic racism will continue.

As Laurel's Mayor, I have already taken the 44th President of United States Barrack Obama's pledge to **REVIEW** police use of force policies, **ENGAGE** the community, **REPORT** the findings to the community and seek feedback, and **REFORM** the police use of force policies. The National #8CANTWAIT campaign is already longstanding Laurel Police Department policy.

Working with the members of the City Council, I will make sure that all City police policies, including our Use of Force Policy, are reviewed and updated if needed, to ensure that our officers do not violate citizens' rights and that everyone they encounter, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, gender or sexual orientation is treated equally and fairly.

"As the City of Laurel celebrates 150 years of government to the people, I as your Mayor, along with the City Council stand ready to invest in improvements and reforms to our government operations, to acknowledge problems and issues, and to double our efforts to end racism and discrimination in Laurel, Prince George's County, and the State of Maryland", Mayor Moe states.

And lastly, I want to remind you that we must all work together to keep honest lines of communication open with the public to better our police department and our community as a whole. I am committed to that. The Mayor, City Council, and Chief of Police will always practice the City motto of "**Progress through People**".

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of service to you.

**Craig A. Moe
Mayor**