



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Melvin Carter, Mayor

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (HREEO) COMMISSION

Maria Mitchell, Chair

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CHAIR

June 2, 2020

Maria Mitchell,
Ward 5

COMMISSIONERS: RE: Mr. George Floyd

Babatope Adedayo,
Ward 5

Tyler Blackmon,
Ward 3

Devon Gilchrist,
At-Large

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Ward 2

Muria Kruger,
Ward 2

Kaliah Linear,
Ward 1

Janessa Marquette,
Ward 2

Emily Peterson,
Ward 3

Erika Sanders,
Ward 4

Christopher Smith,
Ward 2

Jim Thayer,
Ward 1

Eva Wailes,
Ward 4

James Wilkinson,
Ward 3

WHEREAS, George Floyd, a black man, was killed on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, by Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer, while three other officers actively and passively participated and appeared to be in tacit consent to the killing.

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, a video account of the brutal killing of Mr. Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer was made public.

WHEREAS, the video shows Mr. Floyd pleading with the officer's multiple times that he could not breathe;

WHEREAS, the witnesses told the officers that Mr. Floyd was bleeding from the nose, that Mr. Floyd was no longer moving, and begged the officers to check Mr. Floyd's pulse.

WHEREAS, the officer responded to Mr. Floyd and the bystanders by continuing to kneel on Mr. Floyd's neck for numerous minutes, even as he became unresponsive.

WHEREAS, the officer only removed his knee from Mr. Floyd's neck when other emergency responders took away Mr. Floyd's lifeless body.

WHEREAS, all four officers involved in the incident have been terminated from their employment with the Minneapolis Police Department.

WHEREAS, former Officer Chauvin has been arrested and charged with 3rd Degree Murder and 2nd Degree Manslaughter.

WHEREAS, the other three officers have not been arrested or charged with any crimes.

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission cannot remain silent in the face of another black man killed by a police officer in Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission is outraged and disheartened that it is issuing another statement¹ regarding the killing of a black man by a Minnesota police officer.

WHEREAS, residents of our metropolitan area are harmed on a daily basis by systemic and individual forms of racism in law enforcement, and all of us have an obligation to actively combat that racism.

WHEREAS, Black lives do matter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission condemns the killing of Mr. Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Officer as inhumane and unjustifiable.

The Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission stands in solidarity with our Minneapolis neighbors and encourages the peaceful demands for justice in the killing of Mr. Floyd.

The Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission calls for:

1. A continuing objective evaluation of the current charges against former Officer Chauvin so that the severity of charges reflects the actual acts of the officer.
2. The arrest and charging of the three other officers involved in the killing of Mr. Floyd.
3. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Minneapolis Police Department, and/or the Minnesota Attorney General's Office to immediately make available to the public the police dashboard camera and body camera video(s).
4. The collection and annual publication of statistical data regarding incidents where Minnesota police officers discharge weapons and/or civilians are injured in encounters with police officers.
5. The establishment of an independent statewide oversight and investigation body on the use of excessive force by law enforcement.

¹See a previous statement here:

<https://www.stpaul.gov/sites/default/files/Media%20Root/Human%20Rights%20%26%20Equal%20Economic%20Opportunity/HREEO%20Commission%20Police-Community%20resolution.pdf>

6. The establishment of a statewide police accountability system that would set and enforce higher standards of law enforcement conduct.
7. The City of Minneapolis to investigate repeated human rights violations perpetrated by its law enforcement officers and dedicate funds and resources towards truth and reconciliation by the Minneapolis Police Department to account to the community.
8. The creation of powerful incentives for officers to live in the communities they serve by lifting the state ban on local-residence requirements.
9. The Saint Paul Police Department to review and update the Saint Paul Police Department manual and its standards and instructions to officers with respect to use of force, and, in particular, to forbid use of any form of neck restraint and to impose the strictest possible discipline on officers who violate such policies.
10. The Saint Paul Police Department and other police agencies operating in Saint Paul to execute law enforcement duties equitably at all times, but particularly in times of civil unrest, both exercising restraint and acting quickly to ensure the safety of all persons, especially in our poorest and most vulnerable neighborhoods.
11. The Saint Paul Police Department, the Ramsey County Sheriff and the Metro Transit Police Department immediately adopt and implement the following Recommendations of the WORKING GROUP ON POLICE-INVOLVED DEADLY FORCE ENCOUNTERS (<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/co/working-group/Documents/police-involved-deadly-force-encounters-recommendations.pdf> Feb. 2020) and rapidly follow through on other Recommendations:

All police agencies should adopt use-of-force policies that, at a minimum:

- Make sanctity of life a core organizational value;
- Require officers to de-escalate when such effort does not compromise officer safety;
- Require force used by officers to be reasonable, necessary, and proportionate;
- Hold officers accountable to use sound tactics, such as time, distance, and cover, to reduce the need to use force;
- Require officers to intervene when witnessing unreasonable use of force;
- Require officers to report all incidents of unreasonable use of force to a supervisor;
- Require officers to render immediate medical aid to injured victims, including those injured during an officer-involved injury, as soon as safely possible.

This Resolution is directed and shall be delivered to The Honorable Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, Melvin Carter; Members of the City Council of the City of Saint Paul; Saint Paul Chief of Police, Todd Axtell; Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Toni Carter; Ramsey County Sheriff, Bob Fletcher; Chief of Metro Transit Police, Eddie Frizell; Chair of the Metropolitan Council, Charlie Zelle; The Honorable Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, Jacob Frey; Minneapolis Chief of Police, Medaria Arradondo; and the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, Chair Alfonso Cornish.

Sincerely,

City of St. Paul HREEO Commissioners