

A Letter to Golden from Police Chief Bill Kilpatrick:

June 2, 2020

To our Golden Community,

Over the course of the last several days I have been asked by many, as the City of Golden Police Chief, my thoughts on the death of Mr. George Floyd while being taken into custody by officers of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Honestly, it feels like my heart has been torn to pieces and is broken. Broken for the senseless and unexplainable loss of Mr. Floyd's life, broken for the unimaginable pain and suffering that Mr. Floyd's family and friends will endure for the rest of their lives, broken for the terrible divide that is ripping apart the fabric of our nation, broken due to the continuing and ongoing violence that is occurring throughout the country and broken for the loss of faith in our police officers who work tirelessly to build trust among you, the public we serve.

I have been in policing for a very long time and the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Floyd are deeply disturbing to me. There is no reasonable or rational explanation for what occurred.

Let me be clear. What I saw in the video of the last minutes of Mr. Floyd's life was repulsive, appalling and unconscionable.

It goes against everything I believe in; the sanctity of life, the dignity of the human spirit, and our responsibility as humans, but most particularly as police officers, to treat all people with respect. I believe that each of us is responsible and accountable for our actions as well as for our failure to act. Therefore, it is my belief that those officers must be held to account in the criminal justice system for their behaviors. Behaviors which go against all that we, as police officers, stand for.



I share in the grief that is being experienced as a result of Mr. Floyd's death. And I know there is a path forward. It continues with our willingness to listen, learn, dialog and connect with those we serve.

All organizations have a culture that shapes the behaviors of its members and its members shape the culture of the organization. This department of ours strives every day to create a culture of inclusiveness, community and respect.

I take great pride in being your police chief and leading the women and men of the Golden Police Department. We have amazing individuals working here. They are highly competent, committed, motivated and dedicated people who endeavor to give their best to you, our Golden community, every day. They believe in our core values of teamwork, integrity, excellence, personal responsibility and professionalism. And they believe in the right of the people to peacefully protest.

Their jobs are not easy and yet they seek, always, to try and do the right thing for the right reason. They have good hearts and good minds. No, we are not perfect, but I will tell you that our folks are as good as you will ever find anywhere. I know that through all that we are facing they will continue to provide high quality and honorable service to all they encounter.

I hope that you are as proud of them and the work they do as I am.

Respectfully,

Bill Kilpatrick
Chief of Police