



DIVISION OF POLICE  
21012 Hilliard Blvd. Rocky River, Ohio 44116

Kelly J. Stillman, Chief  
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June 5, 2020

Members of the Rocky River Community,

Since the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police officers on Monday, May 25, 2020, we have received several public requests regarding the Police Department's position about the events in Minneapolis.

First and foremost, we would like to be clear that it is our position that Mr. Floyd's death was a criminal act. Further, we believe that the failure to act to protect Mr. Floyd makes the other officers present complicit in his death. It is our hope that the system that failed Mr. Floyd works as intended and delivers the necessary convictions against the officers who are responsible for his death.

We respect the right of Americans to peaceably assemble and petition their government to address ongoing grievances. We cannot condone property damage, looting, or violence, recognizing that these are not the actions of all protestors, and acknowledging that for some it is a result of frustration over past inaction and injustices experienced by too many Black Americans.

We have been, and will remain, dedicated to serving our community in a way that reflects its best values – understanding, respect, responsiveness, open communication, and love of community. Most importantly, we understand that words are not enough. In the coming days and weeks, we will communicate the specifics of our ongoing efforts — including comprehensive hiring practices, policies, training, community engagement, outreach, and accountability. Above all, we are listening and are prepared to be on the cutting edge of addressing issues, including collaborating and convening with all community members to engage in identifying and implementing solutions to this longstanding, critical issue in communities across our nation.

Thank you for your continued support of and engagement with the City administration and our Police Department.

Sincerely,

Pam Bobst  
Mayor

Kelly Stillman  
Chief of Police

George Lichman  
Lieutenant