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Chief Trace Kendig
Iowa DNR

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The Voice of Iowa's Chiefs of Police

One week ago, we watched in horror as George Floyd tragically lost his life while in the custody of Minneapolis police officers. The callousness and disregard shown for Mr. Floyd is sickening and leaves everyone, including police officers across this nation, shocked, appalled, and infuriated. The tactics demonstrated by this officer were reprehensible. The Iowa Police Chiefs Association joins our nation in condemning the actions of these officers.

Community trust is an established and highly honored relationship between police officers and the citizens they have sworn to serve. All individuals are entitled to be treated with dignity and respect and we recognize that when isolated incidents of police misconduct occur anywhere in our country the public's trust is damaged. We are dismayed and disgusted when the actions of a few tarnish the reputation of our honorable law enforcement profession and undermine the dedicated service that our heroic police officers perform daily in our communities.

Although difficult to recognize right now, policing has made significant advancements in recent years. Police leaders across our nation have acknowledged the misdeeds of the past and have sought out community partners to build a better future. These efforts have led agencies throughout Iowa to increase transparency, revise policies and procedures to enhance procedural justice, recruit and hire officers that reflect the community they serve, implement training that has significantly reduced use of force by officers and focus on eliminating a culture that prevents officers from holding each other accountable.

Despite these advances, there is clearly more work ahead. Iowa's police executives, and the officers they lead, must embrace the concerns and criticism being voiced and reexamine their policies and approach.

At the same time, while policing is the focus, community members and elected officials must realize they play a crucial role in moving constructive efforts forward. Collectively, we must be willing to listen and discuss the realities of policing, identify meaningful solutions, and understand that police officers have dedicated their lives to protecting their communities.

Attaining success in these efforts will not be easy; it will require unconventional partnerships, commitment, dedication, and willingness to learn from the past. We are committed to working together to build a future that ensures fairness, respect, dignity, security, and justice for all and we will work tirelessly to earn and maintain the trust of our Iowa communities.

Rob Burdess, President

Dennis Reilly, Vice President

Pete Roth, Secretary

Trace Kendig, Treasurer

Jeremy Logan, Past President

Sam Hargadine, Exec. Director