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May 31, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: A Message From Chief Gary Berg**

**Campbell, CA** - Minneapolis is a long way from Campbell, but the tragic death of George Floyd impacts our community as well. On Friday night, we responded to a call for assistance and had officers in San Jose, helping to uphold people's right to protest and protect against the violence that ensued. I recognize the justified anger behind the Minneapolis incident and assure you that our department is committed to being a part of the bigger solution.

When I watched the video of the Minneapolis Police Officer kneeling on George Floyd's neck for over 8 minutes, while he pleaded with officers, and eventually went unconscious, I was deeply disturbed. What the video depicted was plain wrong, and there is no justification for how he was treated. Whether George Floyd's death resulted from racial bias, inadequate training, bad decision-making, lack of supervision, or a combination of all the above, I share in the nation's outrage.

Regardless of rank or title, every employee of the Campbell Police Department has the responsibility to do what's right. Doing what's right is not just demonstrated in our actions but also having the strength and courage to stand up against wrongdoings - something the other Minneapolis police officers did not do. On the wall of my office are our department's core principles: Service, Justice, and Fundamental Fairness. These words are there to remind us what our role is and how we must treat others, especially in times like these.

Our officers are accustomed to facing difficult situations. However, the tension over the last several days is different. I worry that these issues will linger, and some may place blame on us for the actions of officers 2,000 miles away. The Campbell Police Department is an incredible agency filled with the most dedicated, hard-working, well-trained, and compassionate people I know. We are committed to continual improvement and will build on the outstanding community partnership that already exists in Campbell.

I want to thank our officers for their strength in the face of adversity and our Campbell community for their continued support. We are dedicated to you and will always be there when you need us. Please stay safe.

Chief Gary Berg

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