

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
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Chief of Police

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To the Village President, Village Board, Village Manager, and Citizens of La Grange:

Due to recent events across the country, many community members have asked insightful and reflective questions of our Police Department. I want to take this opportunity to address some of those questions, through the sharing of information, as well as the events that occurred in Minneapolis.

I want to assure you that every Police Officer and Police Chief I have spoken with is angered, shocked and saddened by the senseless death of George Floyd. There is no justification for what occurred.

The men and women of the La Grange Police Department value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value. It is our collective belief that all persons should be treated with dignity and respect. These are fundamental values. Our Law Enforcement Code of Ethics states, "As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind, to safeguard lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder, and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people of liberty, equality and justice." These are the very tenets by which the men and women of the La Grange Police Department serve.

We believe that developing strong, ongoing relationships between law enforcement and communities is the key to diminishing and eliminating racial tension. In August of 2018, the La Grange Police Department adopted the 10-Shared Principles. This document was created through a collaborative effort with the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association and the Illinois NAACP State Conference. The values outlined in the document are guiding principles for the relationship between law enforcement and the communities and people we serve.

The La Grange Police Department has training and policies in place that address many of the inquiries and questions we have received over the past week. Over the past two years, our Department has trained on cultural competency, constitutional rights, civil rights, de-escalation and Procedural Justice. Some Officers have also participated in more in-depth training such as the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training.

There is always room for improvement and we will continue to implement best practices as well as to work towards the goals of our Village and its residents.

In closing, I hope you find the material we provided informative and I welcome continued dialogue and questions regarding our policies and procedures.

Sincerely,
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE

Kurt Bluder
Police Chief