



**Media Advisory
For Immediate Release**

Monday, June 8, 2020
Contact: Rebecca Lex
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
(972) 218-1306 Office
(469) 268-7754 Cell
(972) 275-0906 Fax
communityrelations@lancaster-tx.com



LANCASTER'S RESPONSE TO THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

Lancaster, TX – At this moment in time, the nation is responding to the persistent sound of “I can’t breathe” of which was previously heard by Eric Garner, and most recently, George Floyd.

“Based on recent events, the death of George Floyd and the ongoing health crisis; to say we as a nation and as a community are in unprecedented times is an understatement. Many of us are grieving and upset after witnessing the horrific loss of life before our very eyes. To bear witness to an injustice like this legitimately creates more anger and fear in individuals seeking answers and justice for George Floyd. There is absolutely no excuse for any individual to suffer at the hand of another person; especially one that has the responsibility to protect and serve all of humanity-regardless of race, gender, or even political affiliation. Our City weeps over the death of George Floyd and strongly disapprove of the unjustifiable actions of the those that caused his death. Therefore, as I share the sentiments of all those who were appalled by the death of Mr. Floyd, I want to share with the community that I stand with those who have exercised their right to peacefully protest, and are attempting to bring about awareness to the inequalities that are faced by minorities. On behalf of my colleagues of the Lancaster City Council we extend our condolences to his family and his loved ones.” -Mayor Clyde Hairston

The actions of the Minnesota officers involved in the death of George Floyd have induced questions from residents of all communities; specifically inquiring about the current practices of local police departments all over the nation.

“I believe that it is my responsibility as Chief of Police for the City of Lancaster, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community. As members of the Texas Police Chief Best Practice Accreditation Program, the Lancaster Police Department continuously trains on use of force, de-escalation, conscious and unconscious bias, racial profiling, individuals dealing with mental health, and crisis situations. Our police department’s use of force training includes hand cuffing and arrest procedures of detainees. The techniques used by the Minnesota officers are contrary to the training received by officers of the Lancaster police department.” -Sam Urbanski, Police Chief

Peaceful protestors have met in various areas throughout the nation to display their response to the injustice that African Americans have experienced while interacting with police officers. “No Justice, No Peace” has been the consistent message among many peaceful protestors; however, individuals with malicious intension have destroyed the integrity of the mission. The world as we knew it before 2020 has changed. This change has taken us into two different dynamics, both dynamic and uncomfortable, starting with the COVID-19 global health pandemic to protesting; to exercise the right to stand for social equity and justice.

