

June 3, 2020

Statement from UNH Chief Paul H Dean on the Death of George Floyd

On behalf of the men and women of the University of NH Police Department I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of George Floyd. Many of you have been asking to hear my voice during these troubling times and it's important to me that you know why it's taken until today for me speak out on this deeply disturbing, horrific and senseless death of yet another black man at the hands of law enforcement. Last week, my dad tested positive for COVID-19 and was placed in a COVID-19 ward battling for his life. He died Saturday, just seven days later, and I've been grieving with my family. However, sophomore David Thurston reminded me that the campus community needed to hear from me.

I am your police chief and I work for you. Your police department is nationally accredited through the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA) and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) and literally meets the highest standards in policing and campus policing in the country. I was appalled by what I saw in the video and beyond outraged. This is not how your police officers are trained in New Hampshire, but I have ordered a complete review of our policies, training and tactics to ensure they align with evidence based best practices.

In 2017 the department hired the late Andrew Smith to help improve our department's collective understanding of diversity and inclusion from a public safety perspective. With guidance from the review, we continued to improve campus safety for underrepresented students. I worked with the past leadership of the Black Student Union to add more training and accountability for the department. We increased our yearly diversity training for all department employees, we issued body worn cameras for every police officer and, we worked with students of color to identify locations on the Durham campus where increased bias incidents were reported. Based on the input from students of color, the department added 10 additional cameras across campus.

I know these are just words and it must be about action. I will continue to work diligently with all underrepresented community members to sustain your trust, recommit to our positive relationships and support our campus community in confronting all forms racial injustice.

In service to you,

Paul H Dean

Chief of Police/ Associate Vice President for Public Safety and Risk Management

