



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Meridian Township Chief of Police Issues Letter to the Community
Statement in Response to the Murder of George Floyd

Meridian Township, MI – In response to current events regarding police brutality, Meridian Township Chief of Police Ken Plaga issued the following message on Tuesday, June 2nd:

Dear Meridian and Williamstown Township Residents,

The murder of George Floyd was an inexcusable tragedy. The Meridian Township Police Department extend our sincerest support and sympathy to Mr. Floyd's family and friends. Our entire Police Department stands with George Floyd and those who demand change. Words are not enough, it requires action to comfort those affected by the events of May 25th. Our community strongly and wholly opposes oppression and racial bias. Our Mission Statement contains key values of our organization, "Understanding", "Cooperation" and "Equality". These are not just words but values we hold dear. We will continue to work for the betterment of our community, state and country.

Our Department strives for excellence. We train our officers in techniques that do not place citizens at risk. The Meridian Police Department has policies in place that forbid neck restraint as a method of control. This type of restraint is dangerous and excessive. It exposes citizens to undue risk and is archaic. The events in Minneapolis should have never occurred. We strive to ensure they will never happen here.

Our entire Department embraces the community we serve. The reason we put on our uniform every day is to protect and serve. We want you to feel safe and secure. We have failed, if there is ever a time that our presence makes you feel frightened.

We not only serve this community, we are a part of this community. Regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or personal views, we want you to know we are here for you. We promise we will treat you with dignity and respect to ensure your value as a human being is honored.

The Meridian Township Police Department stands with you. We stand for you.

Ken Plaga, Chief of Police
Meridian Township

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Meridian Township Police Department at 517.853.4800.

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The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.

