



# EL CERRITO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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May 30, 2020

Dear El Cerrito Community,

I am writing this letter to the members of our El Cerrito community who may be wondering about how the El Cerrito Police Department is responding to the tragic death of George Floyd. The men and women of the El Cerrito Police Department have closely watched the coverage from Minneapolis. When I first saw the video, I was not prepared for the callousness displayed by the officers in Minneapolis toward Mr. Floyd. It was awful to see members of my profession acting in such a shameful manner. This is not how we police in El Cerrito, and it should not be how policing is done anywhere. It is far outside of what I would ever consider reasonable. I was shocked and I am outraged.

I was relieved to hear that Officer Chauvin was arrested yesterday for murder. Our law enforcement profession still has a long way to go to ensure accountability and make certain that we intervene when we see outrageous and terrible behavior. In El Cerrito, we do not train our officers to hold people down by their necks. We also continually reinforce the need to take action to protect and preserve the lives of those who come into our custody.

This week, we have been engaging in team level discussions about the death of George Floyd. Every officer I have spoken with has shared my feelings of outrage and disgust. We are using this tragedy to internally reinforce the need to take action to stop unlawful behavior by peer officers. Together, we planned on how we would respond if we witnessed such behavior in person.

I hope this letter helps shed some light on how your police department views this terrible and needless death. The El Cerrito Police Department is committed to constitutional policing and protecting the lives of all members of our community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Keith'.

Paul Keith  
Chief of Police