

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITIES

June 1, 2020

The death of George Floyd in Minnesota was as senseless as it was tragic. Mr. Floyd's death is just the most recent incident in what has emerged as a pattern of needless and appalling encounters between police officers and people of color in this country.

The Association of Chiefs of Police of the Massachusetts State Universities (ACOP) condemns all incidences of police brutality. We denounce any failure to carry out our core law enforcement mission, which is to protect life.

The actions and inactions of the police officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death do not represent the expectations that we have established for the police officers under our supervision; and no citizen should expect or tolerate such behaviors on the part of police officers anywhere. We must not continue to tolerate systemic failures in our policing and criminal justice system.

ACOP's main goal is and always will be to keep students, faculty, and staff safe. State university police departments are committed to acting professionally at all times, while breaking down barriers between our officers and the citizens they serve. We realize that we depend on the support and cooperation of our university communities, and therefore we will continue to work on opening respectful dialogs and building relationships with students and others in order to remain effective and ultimately to increase safety on campus.

In addition to completing state-certified police academy training and ongoing, mandatory in-service training, state university police officers receive regular training in fair and impartial policing and in de-escalation techniques. We will continue to further educate and train our officers so that we can help maintain a safe and inclusive campus environment for people of all backgrounds.

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