

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020

MAYOR'S STATEMENT GEORGE FLOYD

These times are the times that test us. A pandemic, the likes of which none of us have lived through before, leading to a massive economic downturn, and now coupled with yet another unnecessary, tragic, and unacceptable death of a black person in custody, and then looting of our cities. And a president unable to soothe or heal the nation.

I mourn the death of George Floyd and all black people who have died, unjustly, in the hands of our government. Government's role is protection. The protestors and myself are frustrated and outraged that such acts continue to occur.

I support all those working to remove racial disparities in the treatment of citizens and suspects. Black Lives Matter. We must not forget that racism is unfortunately not dead, and lives among us as deadly as the novel coronavirus.

Our Police Department has put a statement on our website, under Departments » Police Department » Alerts & Press Releases, reiterating policies and actions they take to ensure that something like what happened to George Floyd does not happen in our community. I thank them for their leadership.

And I thank the law enforcement officials and elected officials who have taken a knee and/or otherwise joined in with the protestors against this senseless killing.

I will have a conversation with the Chief to talk about whether there is more we can do, and whether or not we have similar issues to other cities where certain officers have numerous complaints, but no action was taken. I will also explore the idea of a town hall on this issue.

I am further chilled by reports of harassment and detention of members of the press. Thomas Jefferson said: "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

My heart goes out to my neighbor cities enduring looting. And I thank them for reiterating that peaceful protest is welcome, but looting is not, and identifying that those who are protesting peacefully are not the same as those who are looting.

Courage. May we get through these times to be on the road towards a more just nation.