

# *From the Police Department*



*From the desk of Chief Sturgill*

Dear Residents and Valued Business Partners:

On behalf of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recent events that have transpired in our country. Please know that the officers of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department share the same anger, disgust and disappointment that many in our community and across this country are feeling regarding the actions that led to the tragic death of George Floyd.

Sadly, the actions taken by one individual officer have contaminated the trust, confidence and positive influence that so many officers have built. Every person deserves to be treated humanely with fairness and dignity, not with the cruelty and indifference that was witnessed by all for that 8 minutes and 46 seconds. These actions were in direct violation of the core police tenet, "to protect" and are inexcusable. **I have yet to meet a police officer that condones this horrible act.**

Police officers are sworn to be protectors and guardians of the community. We undertake our responsibilities with the knowledge and understanding that we serve only by the permission and legitimate power bestowed to us by that community. It is only with citizen support that we can uphold the law fairly, justly, professionally and with accountability.

On the same note, a citizenry that gives permission to be policed must be accountable for their own actions. Like police officers, citizens should also be fair and just when judging and critiquing actions of the law enforcement profession and/or the individual officer.

At this time, the social contract between the populous and law enforcement is under scrutiny like never before. I am hopeful that solutions will be found, changes will be made and that wounds will heal. I believe the pendulum will eventually swing back to the middle and that common ground will once again be found.

On behalf of the CHPD, I would like to thank the Village of Cuyahoga Heights' officials, residents and businesses for the many kind acts of support (prayers, phone calls, letters, food deliveries) shown to our department throughout this stressful and tumultuous time.

Personally, I would also like to thank all the police officers and staff of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department for answering the call, staying on point and holding that line. Damn Proud!

**Stay Safe!**

**Respectfully,**

*Chief Sturgill*