

Like others across the nation, my Department and I are troubled by the death of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis. We too feel the outrage of this situation and were shocked at the action of one officer and the inaction of others at the scene. What is depicted on that video is completely counter to how we train our officers, what we expect from them and what we stand for. Although it does not bring Mr. Floyd back, we were glad to see the former officer in this case was arrested and will be held accountable. Nobody hates bad cops more than good cops!

It is understandable that some wanted to protest over this incident to raise concerns regarding social injustices in our nation. Unfortunately, some have turned peaceful protests into riots and have committed acts of violence, theft and destruction. This takes away from the message peaceful protestors are trying to convey. These actions are destructive to our communities, business owners, first responders and those trying to peacefully protest. We value our relationship with the community and risk our lives keeping it safe; rest assured we will continue to do this.

The City and Placentia Police Department are committed to the delivery of compassionate and professional police services. My officers and I deeply care for our community members. We have a selective hiring practice, which includes a thorough background investigation, polygraph examination and physiological screening. We do not hire anyone with a history or propensity for violence or racism. Officers go through an extensive training program, which includes de-escalation techniques. We continually seek ways to improve our service through critical analysis, evaluation and feedback. We hold ourselves accountable and have a Professional Standards Bureau to thoroughly investigate complaints.

The men and women of the Placentia Police Department respect the constitutional rights of all people and stand ready to protect our community. We will continue our commitment to working with you to build strong relationships of trust and to keeping Placentia a pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Please stay safe and healthy,

Chief Darin Lenyi  
Placentia Police Department