



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Signal Hill Mayor Robert Copeland Issues Statement on Behalf of City Council

SIGNAL HILL – Please see the below statement from Signal Hill Mayor Robert D. Copeland on behalf of the entire Signal Hill City Council:

“We are all hurt, angered, and frustrated by the tragic and wrongful death of Mr. Floyd. We add our voices to those calling for justice and a righting of the wrongs of institutional and systemic racism.

As a Council, we hear, understand, and support those voices who are working to spread the message for needed change through peaceful protest. We honor the rights granted by the First Amendment to free speech. Protesters are seeking to drive meaningful change by lawfully exercising their rights of free speech. Looters and rioters are unlawfully committing acts of violence and destruction. As a community, we will not tolerate these distractions from the important message protesters have.

Our Police Department is committed to the values of integrity, responsibility, communication, loyalty, and family. These are reflected in the Department’s commitment to community-based policing, community partnering, and relationship building. Our officers receive training in racial equality, implicit bias, and de-escalation techniques. Our policies require officers to intervene in the event another officer is using unnecessary force. In addition, the Police Department has proactively implemented transparency measures, such as body worn cameras for all officers and in-car cameras for all police vehicles.

But we as a Council can, and must, do more. At the June 9 City Council meeting, I will be asking my fellow colleagues for their support in scheduling a future community meeting to provide a forum for community feedback regarding policing issues. After gathering feedback, I propose the City Council direct a review of applicable policies, practices, training, and transparency efforts utilizing the Campaign Zero framework.

As we move forward, we will continue to work towards ensuring our community is safe, inclusive, and respectful of all. And we ask you to join us in these efforts.”