



CITY OF ELY

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I join with mayors across the United States in expressing disgust at the abhorrent killing of George Floyd. This racist and inhumane act by a Minneapolis police officer is one more example of the cruel and disparate reality people of color are forced to live with in this country. Systemic racism in the American justice system and violent, often brutal practices pervading countless police precincts is being called out in cities here in Nevada and across the country through demonstrations and protests demanding reform of these institutions. My heartfelt sympathies go out to the Floyd family and I support Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey in his call for justice and accountability of all the police officers involved.

As Mayor of Ely, I work closely with the Chief of Police here in Ely, who serves all of White Pine County; we understand that while we here in our corner of the Great Basin don't share the problems of systemic racism and violence to the extent of our counterparts in larger metropolitan areas, these issues affect every Nevadan and every American.

Our local law enforcement officers within the White Pine County Sheriff's Office are diligent in their education in regards to sensitivity training and preventing bias. These men and women make sure they use their body cameras during every patrol and throughout the course of their duties protecting and serving our community. Most importantly, the County Sheriff and his deputies are active members of our community; they are our neighbors, friends, and family. As a community we must remember our commonalities, the things that unite us to prevent harsh divisions from developing.

My hope is that these protests and demonstrations here in our home state and across the country remain peaceful. This is a defining moment in time and history will remember this moment as a step forward in the fight for equality. As mankind continues striving towards a more perfect union, where all are seen as equal, the oppressed are standing up, bolstered by allies in pursuit of that goal. Black lives do matter. Freedom and the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness can never truly be obtained when one of us is denied these rights.

Racism and violence against others has no place in our city offices, our public institutions, nor in the borders of our county. We are lucky to live in our corner of the Great Basin, but we are not immune to these issues nor can we ignore what is occurring in cities across the country and the globe. I vow to ensure the City of Ely and every department within my purview remains free of discrimination. I promise to work to preserve our city as a diverse, welcoming, and safe place to live.

I ask that you also pledge to know and help your neighbors. Become involved in your community. Listen and engage with your leaders and law enforcement the same as you would know your co-worker or someone in your neighborhood. These efforts may seem small, but are powerful in destroying divisions that weaken our bonds as Nevadans, as Americans, as humans.

Nathan Robertson
Mayor – City of Ely

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.