



The Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing would like to express our condolences to the family of George Floyd. We are outraged by the disregard for his life and the lack of a coherent response from elected leadership from the federal government down to local municipalities to redress white supremacy and police violence.

The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis is not an isolated incident, but part of the systemic issues that plague our country, including here in Portland. According to an analysis of use-of-force data, Black Portlanders are 8.5 times as likely as white people to experience use-of-force by the police. In Minneapolis, the ratio is 8.1. We implore our elected leaders and law enforcement officials here in Portland to stand against white supremacy and police violence. We must do more than make symbolic statements against racism. We must change the outcomes of policing, reducing incidents of violence, and the targeting of communities of color and other marginalized groups. We believe that it should be a priority for the new police contract to hold officers who violate policy accountable.

As we respond to the issue of white supremacy and violence, we urge city leadership to center the experiences of Black lives in their conversations and actions. The focus must be first and foremost the uplifting of Black communities and communities of color at this time. We call on Mayor Wheeler and Chief Resch to work with PCCEP and the communities of Portland to create policy change within the police bureau in order to minimize the use of force, deaths and build trust within our community.