

June 7, 2020

2020 is proving to be a very challenging year indeed. We are navigating through a severe health pandemic delivered by COVID-19, a crisis that has taken the lives of so many and crippled our economy. Now our nation is reeling from the horrific murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. It is tragic that three fellow police officers did nothing to protect Mr. Floyd in that moment they were needed the most. The humane treatment of all lives is a basic and fundamental right, and that right was violated with callous disregard. As I process this tragic event, I repeat this mantra: Listen, Learn, Love and Respect. Now is the time for very difficult conversations, which will hopefully allow a path to recovery in our great nation. I will listen with empathy to the concerns of our African American brothers and sisters, and I will do my best to walk in their shoes and learn and respect a new perspective.

Law enforcement is among the most difficult of all jobs in this world, and becomes more difficult during times where people are angry, feel powerless, frightened, and feel trust has been broken. I am thankful we have an exceptional leader in Mount Prospect Police Chief John Koziol. He leads with integrity, honor, and a genuine love for the law enforcement profession. Please take a moment to read Chief Koziol's message to our community following the events in Minneapolis:

We mourn the loss of George Floyd's life through this criminal act by a police officer. Our hearts are filled with sadness and disgust. Make no mistake, those of us wearing a badge are as sickened by the murder of George Floyd as the rest of the nation. We continue to foster trust in our minority community and are committed to building back the fractured relationships created by this heinous disregard for human life.

Our officers are held to the highest of standards in treating people in our community with respect and dignity. Mount Prospect Police Officers receive continual training on racial bias, use of force and de-escalation techniques. Building community partnerships through engagement activities and open dialogue has been a cornerstone of our department for many years and will continue as we move forward. We work hard every day to be an active and positive part of Mount Prospect and celebrate the numerous cultures and nationalities that make up the Village. The men and women of the Mount Prospect Police Department stand with our community, other law enforcement agencies and the nation against excessive use of force. We embrace the diversity of the Village and would never do anything to violate the trust of this great community.

We will continue to have an increased visual presence in the Village and continue to work with our community to ensure the safety of all persons during these difficult times. We encourage members of the community to call 9-1-1 if they see or hear anything suspicious.

I am praying for peace in our community and our country. Please consider my mantra today and every day: Listen, Learn, Love and Respect. If you would like to learn more about the actions we are taking to put this mantra into practice, I encourage you to visit www.mountprospect.org/CulturalClimate.

As always, I welcome your feedback - feel free to email me anytime.

Sincerely,

Mike Cassidy, Village Manager