



**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY | ANTHONY F. GOLIK**

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I am deeply troubled by the horrific actions of the law enforcement officer who caused the death of George Floyd. It was difficult to even watch the video. However, seeing what happened is necessary for every prosecutor. The actions of the other officers on the scene who did not intervene when George Floyd was dying is almost as shocking as the conduct of the officer who held his knee on George Floyd's neck. My heart goes out to George Floyd's family.

The conduct of the officers in this tragic incident should make every prosecutor and every law enforcement officer reflect on our American system of justice. We must reflect on what we can and must do to win back the trust of all communities. The death of George Floyd should move all of us to confront the undeniable fact that institutional bias exists. As prosecutors, we must face the fact that our justice system needs to continue to seek reform.

Vancouver Police Chief James McElvain recently said that "law enforcement is based on public service, compassion, safety and care for others. Hearing a man begging for his life, saying he cannot breathe, while other officers stand by and do nothing, is not reflective of the values of law enforcement in any way." I believe the conduct of the officers in this incident runs counter to the core of who law enforcement officers strive to be as people. However, the death of George Floyd should move all of us to confront the undeniable fact that institutional racism exists. Bias exists. Brutality exists. As prosecutors, we must face the fact that no branch of our justice system is immune from bias.

As prosecutors, we must not be complacent. We must continue to seek reform. We must be open minded to ideas that seek reform. We must be open to fair minded discussion of reform concepts even when they may feel extreme. Prosecutors must continue to require independent investigations and transparent review of use of deadly force by law enforcement officers in every case. We must ensure that we seek justice in all cases, regardless of who is accused. We must stand together in recognition that racism exists in our institutions and we must stand together in strong opposition to racism and bias. We must strive to achieve a system of justice where race never dictates an outcome and where all people know they will be treated equally.

Tony Golik  
Clark County Prosecuting Attorney