



FOOTHILL

DE ANZA

COLLEGE DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
"TO SERVE AND PROTECT"

DATE: 06/08/2020
TO: FA President Tim Shively
FROM: FHDA POA, President, Leif Nelson
SUBJECT: George Floyd Resolution

The members of the Foothill-De Anza College Police Officers Association have all watched in horror the video recorded murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis Police Officer. Seeing his fellow Minneapolis Officers stand by and watch for several minutes as George Floyd's last moments on earth are spent gasping for air is utterly unexplainable. The failure to act as a police officer is a crime in itself. To this fact, the world has witnessed the public lynching of George Floyd at the hands of 4 police officers. There are no words that can justify or explain the actions of these officers. They have been arrested and charged for this crime. Let justice be served.

Our nation is now hearing from George Floyd when you speak for him and others who have suffered a similar fate at the hands of police. As Police Officers, we are listening to your voices.

The Foothill-De Anza Police Officers Association condemns systemic racism, acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country and it's potential in the California Community College System.

When Chief Acosta was appointed as Chief in 2018, he reviewed our police department's use of force policy and removed the use of the carotid neck restraint, before this tragedy even occurred. Chief Acosta also had our Police Officers sit down with leaders within our Foothill-De Anza Community for principled policing training for procedural justice and implicit bias, with Dean of Intercultural/International Studies Edmundo Notre, Dean of EOPS Michele LeBleu Burns, and Academic Program Coordinator for the Office of Equity and Social Justice, Tony Santa Ana.

We as Police Officers are here to serve you the Foothill De Anza Community. I have recently listened to members of this community discuss racism challenges on our campuses. I heard from a staff member who struggles to support our black student community with academic success. Her extraordinary efforts are being oppressed not by just the police but other members of our community.

P.O. BOX 1045, CUPERTINO, CA 95015-1045 / 650.949.7827
Leif Nelson – President / Frank Rocha – VP / Jeff Meade – Treasurer

Foothill College: 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
De Anza College: 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014

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She is struggling in her mission to serve the black student community by giving them support for things most of us take for granted. Our community is hurting and now is the time for our community to work together to shine a light on the ugliness of racism and find new ways to support our black student community to achieve academic and life success.

As someone who is privileged to serve you and your community for the past 25 years, please consider this. We are part of your community and we are deeply invested in the safety of this community. At any given time our police department has one police officer on duty at each of three campuses. Our police department relies on it's campus community of Faculty, Administrators, Staff and Students whom we work with to be problem solvers and community caretakers. We are trained in mental health crisis response, de-escalation practices and conflict resolution. We are also first responders to emergencies on campus such as medical events, traffic accidents, natural disasters and the ever present threat of an active assailant attack on our community. We as officers have a passion for working in this community. We want to keep it safe for our black student community that is seeking an education or vocational skill. We are angered by the tragic death of George Floyd. I would hope that we would all take the time now to think and act on the wisdom of the ages "In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you."

Sincerely,

Leif Nelson
FDCCDPOA President

CC:

Police Chief Daniel Acosta
FHDA Board President Pearl Cheng
Chancellor Judy Miner
President Lloyd Holmes
President Thuy Nguyen
Leadership for FHDA ACE, CSEA, Teamsters and Confidential's

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