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For Immediate Release

Statement from Mayor Reilly

To those who exercised their First Amendment right to protest and to peacefully assemble in Waukesha today, I want to thank you. I thank you for never wavering on your message and I thank you for working with our Police Officers so that the protest was safe and peaceful. I understand that you want to be heard. That you are demanding change. That you are angry because of a lifetime (and more) of inequality and injustice. I, along with most people that witnessed the death of George Floyd felt my soul ache with sorrow. I do not condone police brutality. The Waukesha Police Department does not condone Police brutality.

Hopefully each of you that marched today recognized that Waukesha is much more diverse than commonly perceived. I know that many of those marching today were young adults who attended Waukesha schools. These young adults know that more than 1/3 of the students in our schools are minorities. These students, and their parents know that Waukesha continues to be more diverse year by year.

As an individual and as the Mayor of Waukesha, I acknowledge that there is racial profiling throughout the United States, that Police brutality exists, that there is inequality for minorities and that George Floyd should be alive today.

As an individual, and as the Mayor of Waukesha, I recognize that there are inherent privileges for those that look like me. I recognize that by being white, I cannot fully understand the discrimination that people of color must endure daily. I recognize that change needs to happen.

It is my hope that we, as a country, move forward so that we recognize each individual not for the color of their skin but for their inherent worth and for their contributions to the community. It is my hope that the profiling of minorities ends. It is my hope that we all can figure out a better way to obtain swift justice and equality for all. It is my hope that we heal as a nation. I recognize that this type of healing is not easy, but I hope the healing will be without violence, without property damage and without bloodshed.

As a City, we remain committed to supporting a well-trained Police Department that operates with the highest levels of integrity, service, and courage always. The Police Department is and will continue to work to build strong relationships with all members of our community. I am very proud of the Waukesha Police Department today. Every officer was present in every sense of the word. They did their job to keep everyone safe from harm and they made sure that the peaceful protest was able to cover much of the city over most of the afternoon.



I am so grateful that today's protest in Waukesha was peaceful. I thank the organizers of the protest and those who marched today. I hope that today's protest can serve as a model going forward. We all deserve the right for our voices to be heard and those who wanted to make their voices be heard were able to do that.

As Mayor, along with our Police Officers and all other City employees, we remain dedicated to serving the needs of all our community.

Sincerely,
Shawn. N Reilly
Mayor

END