

Huntington Woods Statement Condemning Acts of Racial Injustice and Commitment for Justice, Fairness and Peace for All

This year has brought many unexpected challenges and emotions prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. At this time of heightened anxiety and distance, news of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis is a shocking reminder of the acts of injustice that continue to occur in our country. The City of Huntington Woods shares this statement from our elected and public officials with our response to this senseless tragedy and our ongoing efforts to create a safe and welcoming community.



June 2, 2020

In the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” In the wake of another act of senseless violence, resulting in George Floyd’s shocking death in Minneapolis, people across America are taking to the streets in justifiable protest against racial and social inequality, including persistent inequity in the administration of justice.

The City of Huntington Woods stands in solidarity and empathy with people all over the world who are shocked by this tragedy. Our elected and public officials condemn all acts of racism and discrimination, and actively promote justice and peace for all. We unanimously oppose excessive police force, and regularly monitor and evaluate our public safety department to ensure that senseless violence and inequity do not happen here.

At this time of unrest and disbelief, we want to reassure Huntington Woods residents that our public safety department achieves and maintains the highest accreditations offered to law enforcement agencies through CALEA – the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement. Huntington Woods is one of 11 public safety departments in Michigan accredited by CALEA, out of 580 departments statewide. Our public safety officers are committed to being part of

far-reaching solutions, and embrace training on community relations and peaceful de-escalation.

The death of George Floyd under these circumstances comes at a time of unprecedented change, extreme anxiety, and fear in our country. We as a city are committed to making Huntington Woods a warm and welcoming city free of fear and turmoil.

Our public and elected officials stand committed to doing all that we can do to foster a safe and inclusive community. It is our moral, ethical, and sworn duty to do so.

Mayor Robert F. Paul, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Rozell, Commissioner Jenks, Commissioner Olsman, Commissioner Elder

In addition to the statement from the City, the Director of the City of Huntington Woods Department of Public Safety, Andrew Pazuchowski, issued his own statement on behalf of the police department, which we share below.



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

ANDREW L. PAZUCHOWSKI, Director

12755 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Huntington Woods, MI 48070



My officers and I denounce the egregious behavior of four members of the Minneapolis Police Department, whether by action or inaction, that resulted in the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. These images are beyond disturbing and cast a stain on all law enforcement professionals and the dedicated men and women who strive to protect and serve their communities with honor.

I want to reassure the community that we do not condone and will not tolerate this behavior in Huntington Woods. Our profession is based on the core values of honesty, character, professionalism, respect, and accountability.

As a nationally accredited police agency through CALEA, I have worked hard to address concerns regarding police policies and practices ranging from Use of Force, Bias in Policing, and Police

Accountability and Transparency. Moreover, I will continue to work to improve this department moving forward.

Public trust and accountability for police officers is crucial to a safe and inclusive community. My department will continue to work hard with our citizens to strengthen their confidence in our service and will always value the trust you place in us.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Pazuchowski

Andrew L. Pazuchowski
Director of Public Safety

June 3, 2020

On behalf of the City of Huntington Woods, all public and elected officials remain available for contact should you wish to continue this conversation, or discuss further questions. City Manager Amy Sullivan is a great person to start with, and she can be reached at asullivan@hwmi.org. Mayor Bob Paul can be reached at bpaul@hwmi.org, and Director of Public Safety Andrew Pazuchowski can be reached at apazuchowski@hwmi.org. We are dedicated to keeping the lines of communication open.