

Message from the Director:

As the family, friends and the nation lay George Floyd to rest, the Office of Police Oversight conveys their deepest condolences to Mr. Floyd's loved ones. We mourn with all those that have expressed their grief, pain and anger since the senseless death of one of our own brothers.

The grief we feel is mixed with the demand for justice. Since I viewed the video images on that terrible day, I have been moved to further commit myself to the important work of police accountability. I have been moved by all those compelled to march, those compelled to reach out and ask how they can be part of making our community equitable, just and safe for all. Friends and neighbors are educating themselves to understand the perspective of the Black Community, Latino Community, Native Community and all those communities marginalized. I am hopeful that more people will recognize that there are many that live in fear of those who are supposed to protect them. If change is going to come, we must do it together. Attending the beautiful vigil and seeing the diversity in the crowd, I know that we in Boise are moving in the right direction.

Since the day after the loss of Mr. George Floyd, I have been in contact with influencers and leaders in the Black community, and other communities of color. I have listened to concerns, fear and frustration. I have had frequent dialogue with Interim Chief Winegar. Our staff has spent hours reviewing the recommendations for change being presented from grassroots movements, civil rights organizations and legislation being considered in various local and state governments. We also will be analyzing the federal legislation working its way through Congress.

Twenty-three years ago, the City of Boise understood the significance of independent police oversight for accountability, transparency and trust. These efforts have been ongoing since. The actions of the Boise Police Department in the past few weeks has demonstrated when law enforcement and community view each other as human beings, a greater good is possible. Let each of us commit to equality, equity and justice. Let us all commit to finding a place where we can each contribute to keeping our community safe and just for everyone.

Natalie Camacho Mendoza
Director, Office of Police Oversight