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Press Release

Thanks to video obtained from bystanders, the nation has now witnessed the brutal and unjustifiable killing of George Floyd, an African-American man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. Floyd was unarmed, handcuffed with his hands behind his back, face down on the pavement and surrounded by four police officers. Yet, Officer Derek Chauvin pressed his weight into Mr. Floyd's neck until his death.

The prosecutors and staff of the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office join those who are standing up, kneeling down and shouting against racism, inequality and police brutality. It shouldn't need to be said, but clearly it does; racism and bigotry have no place in our society or our criminal justice system. We will continue to work to identify even implicit bias within ourselves, and create a system that is fair, just and equitable for all. We know that every day the women and men of law enforcement put their lives on the line to protect our citizens. And, we value those who abhor the actions of fellow officers who abuse the privilege the public's trust, symbolized by the badge they wear, to do harm to others.

The peaceful protests we have seen across America are inspiring. They represent hope that our nation is fractured, but not broken. Unfortunately, that is not true for every community. It is not true for every system. And we must, together, set ourselves to the task of hastening what should have occurred decades ago: equality. Unfortunately, we have also seen there are those who thrive on divisiveness. There are those who profit personally and/or ideologically from destruction of property and hope. They cannot be allowed to hijack the dialogue from addressing racism and police brutality.

Moving forward, the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office will continue to work with our community, support victims of crime and create opportunities for those who commit crime to move on to a path of success. We will come through this stronger. And, George Floyd will not die in vain.