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Message to the Community on the Derek Chauvin Verdict

April 20, 2021

Earlier today, a jury in Minneapolis, Minnesota found ex-police officer Derek Chauvin guilty on all three charges related to the murder of George Floyd. This case sparked strong emotions worldwide, including here in Washington County, exposing what can happen when police use-of-force decisions result in a tragic death and the loss of trust in law enforcement.

As your public safety and law enforcement leaders, we recognize the immense trauma and pain this trial and the past year have brought, especially among Black community members and other people of color.

The conviction of Derek Chauvin on second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter charges is an essential statement of accountability in our justice system. Our nation must acknowledge the harm from inequitable outcomes our justice system has had on Black Americans and demand accountability.

We commit to the hard work of rebuilding trust through effective accountability and transparency. We believe that difficult times demand positive change. Our public safety professionals remain committed to being part of that change while deepening our partnerships with the communities we serve, particularly those historically marginalized by our justice system.

Your public safety and law enforcement leaders are committed to working alongside all our community members, upholding First Amendment rights, and ensuring the safety of our community.