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Office of the
City Manager

Message from City Manager Randy Knight

On behalf of the Winter Park City Commission, city management and staff, I would like to offer the following statement:

Since the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, we have received citizen inquiries about the City of Winter Park's perspective on systemic racism. There have also been questions regarding our police department's policies and procedures.

The City of Winter Park opposes systemic racism, and supports diversity and inclusion in all aspects of city government, including leadership roles. On June 22, the City Commission appointed a new slate of advisory board appointees with a more diverse membership roster.

We are very fortunate to have a protective and compassionate police force that works tirelessly to keep our community safe every day. The men and women who serve our city represent a department that does not permit the application of choke holds or strangle holds. They are trained to use de-escalation techniques when appropriate and expected to intervene when policies are not being followed.

We do not claim to be perfect or have all the answers. Therefore, the City Commission has asked for the Civil Service Board to review the police department's policies and procedures. This volunteer board of city residents will thoroughly analyze standard operating procedures, benchmark policies with other agencies, and make changes where necessary to enhance its law enforcement practices. This will be a public process and help make certain the policies support the agency's mission to ensure public safety, enforce the law with integrity, and provide extraordinary service in a fair, safe and equitable manner.

We will continue to support the various needs of our diverse community. Discrimination has no place in Winter Park.