

Sheriff Joe Pelle's Statement on the killing of George Floyd

The videos that I've seen of the killing of George Floyd are certainly sickening. The tactic used and the killing of this man violate the mission and values of the Boulder County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). Our first value at BCSO is that we "value human life."

Abuse of this kind must be held to a high level of accountability, and I was pleased to learn of their firing and the filing of charges. Our policy dictates that when a fellow officer witnesses abuse, they must intervene. In addition, neck restraints were done away with decades ago, and our policy clearly dictates that when resistance ceases the application of force must also.

We have heard the words of the protestors. Black lives matter. That is true in Boulder County and everywhere in the world. Enough is enough. There is no room for any law enforcement professional who is biased against any group of people to be a part of our profession.

I understand and even support the need to protest, we have facilitated that in Boulder County for decades. I am heart sick to see property being destroyed and people being injured in rioting. That does no honor to the victims of police violence.

Police agencies must do more to build relationships and trust with communities of color. Healthy personal relationships between police leaders and the culture brokers in our communities who represent the disenfranchised are the first steps toward building trust and respect.

When you are interacting with the BCSO, we want you to feel safe, no matter your race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, or any other status. Should you find yourself speaking with a deputy, you should not fear for your life or suffer any discrimination.

Law enforcement and the community must work together to make changes that will engender trust and ensure a justice system that is fair and just for all. We will not stop until members of our community no longer fear those who are there to protect them.