



# CASS COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF

321 M-62 North, Cassopolis, MI 49031 ♦ [www.ccsso.info](http://www.ccsso.info) ♦ Administration: (269) 445-8644 ♦ Dispatch (269) 445-1560

RICHARD J. BEHNKE, Sheriff

CLINTON D. ROACH, Undersheriff

Statement read by Sheriff Richard J. Behnke at Board of Commissioners Meeting  
June 4, 2020

I wish to extend condolences to the family of George Floyd who are in the process of having a memorial service for him currently. The Cass County Office of Sheriff condemns the actions leading up to the death of George Floyd at the hand of Minneapolis Police Officers on May 25. Officers are expected to protect the communities in which they serve. These officers have degraded and discredited our profession and broken the trust with those we serve.

We pledge to continue to seek the highest standards from our men and women in uniform at the Cass County Office of Sheriff. Our Deputies are trained on proper de-escalation practices and proper restraint techniques. The type restraint used in this case is not used or practiced by our officers. Our office requires deputies to fill out of a use if force report in all cases in which physical force is used. These reports are then checked by Command staff to make sure that proper techniques are used. We do these things to make sure our deputies are able to do their job safely and able to protect the communities that they serve.

One of the questions I get from the community members is the make of our jail population. Many are surprised to hear that our jail population represents the same demographics of our community. Currently our jail population is 79% Caucasian, 17% African American and 4% Hispanic. I think this snapshot shows that we service the community equally and fairly.

The Cass County Sheriff's Office, recognizing its commitment of service to all citizens, will provide professional law enforcement and crime prevention in accordance with the highest possible standards of integrity and fairness.