



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

# *Evesham Township Police Department*

*County of Burlington*

*State of New Jersey*



**Christopher Chew**

**Chief of Police**

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Like many in our community, I am full of a wide range of emotions of what happened during the disturbing video depicting the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd in Minneapolis Minnesota. Some of my own personal and professional emotions range from anger, sadness, confusion and back to anger. I have this wide range of emotions because I do not, and will never, condone the actions or inactions of the officers on the scene in Minneapolis. I am here to reinforce to the members of our community and our visitors that these types of incidents do not portray the core values of the Evesham Township Police Department, which are INTEGRITY, PUBLIC SERVICE, EXCELLENCE, TEAMWORK, FIDELITY, VALOR, PROFESSIONALISM, COMPASSION, HONOR & TRANSPARANCY. I am deeply saddened to know that our honorable profession of law enforcement will be stained again by the actions of a few individuals in police departments in other parts of the country.

So the question is - What has the Evesham Township Police Department done to make sure that tragic incidents like the death of Mr. George Floyd do not occur in Evesham Township?

First, our agency has worked tirelessly to forge strong relationships with the members of Evesham Township. Our civic and faith- based leaders are an integral part of our agency and are very active in developing our practices and procedures to ensure the high level of service that our community has been accustomed to over the past seven years under my leadership and direction. Some of the other core components of our Police Department is our Community Policing Unit, our LEAD, School Resource Officer, and Police Chaplain Programs. As an agency we are committed to making these sure that these programs are given the highest level of commitment to ensure the fair, objective, and safe services that we provide as an agency. The creation and participation in these long-standing programs has resulted in positive ongoing dialogue regarding topics that are affecting our community and what services that we can provide to make sure that our residents feel safe and secure whether you are visiting, shopping, or call Evesham Township home.

Second, our agency has made the voluntary commitment to be both accredited by the NJ State Chiefs Association but also on a national level by Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 2011. CALEA accreditation requires our agency to adhere to the highest level of police

professional services on a 24 hour 7 day a week mandate. Our members are required to participate in quarterly or semi-annual training related to topics that include bias based policing prohibitions, proper use of force, de-escalation techniques, mental health and substance abuse response protocols, and hands-on scenario based training to name a few, with proficiency tests associated on these high risk situations. Our agency takes the proactive measure of reviewing each use of force incident on multiple levels to ensure accountability. This review includes live time investigations, interviews of witnesses, and written administrative reviews. We invest resources in conducting weekly random inspections of body worn camera video to ensure officer accountability. We track daily interactions that our officers have with the public and review these interactions on an annual basis through our bias based policing statistics. These reviews are conducted to ensure that our interactions with the public are in conformity with established law enforcement best practices.

Third, we also have a robust Employee Intervention Program (EIP). The EIP is a computerized system that is designed to analyze all aspects of an officer's actions to determine if there are any triggers that may require an intervention of discipline action prior to a significant incident occurring. These inspections and reviews are critical to ensure the highest level of accountability amongst our staff.

In closing, I am asking our residents and visitors to assist us in channeling your anger, sadness and frustration into something positive and long lasting. Please partner with law enforcement and the members of our agency and help us effectuate the positive change that everyone desperately needs in these extremely challenging times. Please keep Mr. Floyd, his family, residents of all affected communities, and the great police officers across this country, in your prayers. I am always available if you want to speak or discuss ways to further strengthen our partnership in protecting our citizens, our neighbors, our friends, our family members, or our loved ones. Please be safe and healthy and know for sure that all of the men and women of the Evesham Township Police Department are committed to facing this issue together!

Sincerely,

Chief Christopher Chew