



International Public Safety Association Statement Law Enforcement Use-of-Force

Goodyear, Arizona – May 28, 2020

On May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, George Floyd was arrested and died while in police custody. Since then, several protests have occurred and agencies and organizations around the United States are raising concerns about law enforcement use-of-force.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police President Steven R. Casstevens made the following statement on May 27, 2020, about the incident and law enforcement use-of-force:

“Law enforcement officers are trained to treat all individuals, whether they are a complainant, suspect, or defendant, with dignity and respect. This is the bedrock principle behind the concepts of procedural justice and police legitimacy. That is why incidents involving the use-of-force are never the desired outcome in any given situation; moreover, it is the responsibility of police leaders to hold officers accountable for incidents when use-of-force is not aligned with agency policy or appropriate to the given circumstance.

While incidents involving the use-of-force can be disturbing and may raise concern over police operations, we must allow investigating agencies to work to understand what occurred and why, so the appropriate administrative / judicial processes can occur. While videos of incidents may seem convincingly clear, all circumstances must be weighed.

No single incident should define an agency or the profession. As police leaders, we must be willing to question and denounce actions that are wrong so to continue to build trust within our communities. Only by working together in partnership can we build understanding, prevent future incidents, and build safer communities for all.”

The International Public Safety Association agrees with the statement made by International Association of Chiefs of Police President Casstevens.

The International Public Safety Association recognizes that this incident and the officers involved are going to be under investigation for the next several months. We also recognize and acknowledge the concerns of the community and support their right to peaceably assemble. We have significant concerns about the use of force the officers used and the protests that are occurring coupled with the current public health crisis.

We request the International Public Safety Association membership work with leadership in their agencies, elected officials, public health officials and community organizations to objectively assess and develop a path forward to help solve these serious issues.

About the International Public Safety Association

The International Public Safety Association, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established in July 2014 in the State of Arizona to bring the public safety community closer together by offering opportunities to network, cross-train and build a stronger public safety community capable of an effective joint response to all incidents. www.joinipsa.org

Press Contact

Heather R. Cotter

Mobile: 703-909-7616

Email: heather@joinipsa.org

Source: International Public Safety Association

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