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Contact: Rosa Holliday
Cell: 517-862-8767



Amos O'Neal statement on the death of Mr. George Floyd

(Saginaw, Michigan) - Amos O'Neal, Saginaw County Commissioner and candidate for State Representative of the 95th District, issued the following statement following the death of Mr. George Floyd.

"Mr. George Floyd was murdered in broad daylight by a white Minneapolis Police Officer. He was handcuffed, with his hands behind his back, lying on his stomach pleading "I can't breathe, I can't breathe." The officers ignored the plea, even from bystanders who were asking and begging for the officer to release his neck.

We have watched these senseless murders happen, time after time with too many people of color. It is because of systemic racism. This is a chronic problem and many of us are outraged when it happens, which we should be, but we must address the problem.

One of the officers involved has been charged with third degree murder. The others involved have not been charged. The investigation must be done swiftly, and justice must prevail.

We need fundamental changes to our criminal justice system. We can help with this by electing the right individuals to office.

We as individuals must be the change! We must work to dismantle generational and institutional racism which continues to devastate our country.

We have some great law enforcement officers in the City of Saginaw and in Saginaw County. I know they feel bad about this situation and don't support the actions taken by the former Minneapolis police officer.

Community-based organizations like Bridge the Gap and Parishioners on Patrol Saginaw with Bishop Larry Camel do important work in our community to build positive relationships with our youth and the community at large. These organizations have built and maintained outstanding relationships with our law enforcement community in Saginaw.

Under the leadership of Saginaw County Sheriff William Federspiel, the Sheriff Department has worked endlessly throughout Saginaw County to connect with families creating mutual respect.

America must abandon and reject all forms of systematic and institutional racism if we expect to succeed together.

The U.S. Justice Department must conduct a FAIR and JUST investigation to ensure that George Floyd's murderers are held accountable.”

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