June 2, 2020

To the campus community,

I write to you as the Chief of Police at SUNY Geneseo during a time of great pain, frustration and anger in communities across the United States.

The death of George Floyd, at the hands of uniformed members of the police, has once again laid bare the ugly truths about the fractured relationship between law enforcement and the Black community. Far too often, we in law enforcement have violated the trust this community has placed in us. I will say it clearly and plainly: the members of the University Police Department at SUNY Geneseo are horrified and appalled by the abuse of power and disregard for human life displayed in Minneapolis. Those officers not only failed to honor their legal duty to uphold the Constitution, but also failed to honor the humanity of a member of the community they were entrusted to protect and serve. Their actions were indefensible and inconsistent with standards of police training, and instead they displayed willful indifference to the safety, wellbeing and life of Mr. Floyd.

The officers of the University Police Department stand in support with the members of our community who are rightfully outraged, hurt and terrified. We will continue to strive for progress in the relationship with those members of our community who have been marginalized, discriminated against, victimized and otherwise suffered injustice. We hear you, we recognize you, we value you and we swear upon our oath to protect your rights as members of our community.

Sincerely,

Christopher D. Prusak,
Chief of Police