

June 1, 2020, Letters to the Editor



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Silent Vigil Tonight

Dear Editor: A seven-minute silent vigil will be held at Totem Square 7 p.m. tonight in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. George Floyd was a father, a son, and a friend. He was also a Black man in America who, like so many others, was targeted by the police. A widely circulated video of the unarmed and handcuffed Floyd showed a police officer's knee on the back of his neck while he cried out for help, asked for his mother, and repeatedly stated, "I can't breathe."

George Floyd died shortly after he was taken into custody. The officer was later identified as Derek Chauvin, who has had 18 complaints filed against him since joining the force in 2001. Officer Chauvin has since been arrested on charges of third-degree murder and manslaughter. The three other officers involved have been fired but have faced no criminal charges.

Floyd's death has been marked by nationwide protests. While we are far from Minneapolis, we are all accountable for the actions of the United States government and police forces around the country. We demand justice for the perpetrators and we stand in solidarity with protests happening nationally and

internationally.

We will gather to honor and mourn the lives of the countless Black men, women, and children who have been killed by police violence in America. We call for justice, change, and recognition of the victimization of communities of color in this country. We call for the police to be held accountable for their actions.

Please bring your own sign in a show of support, love and peace.

In an effort to maintain community health and safety please bring/wear a face mask and maintain 6 feet of social distance from those who are not a part of your immediate household.

Margot O'Connell,

Eleyna Rose, Michael Mausbach,

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