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Statement from Mayor Richardson on Recent Events Against People of Color

It is with a heavy heart I have watched the events in Minnesota unfold. I have struggled to put into words my feelings seeing not only what happened to George Floyd but also African Americans throughout the country doing ordinary things like jogging or bird watching. I have never had to worry about my safety like people of color, especially African Americans, do every day throughout this country. I have that privilege. We need to do better. It breaks my heart to hear from friends who fear for the safety of their African American sons. This country needs to do better.

We are fortunate to have an exceptional police department in Fitchburg with very high standards. They hold themselves to a higher standard and I hold them to a higher standard. They work hard to protect and serve our community and build trust and relationships with our community. I will continue to support them while also making it clear there will be no tolerance for the actions we have seen time and again in other parts of our country. Nothing can justify the actions of the former law enforcement officers in Minnesota against George Floyd.

The Fitchburg City Council joins me in condemning the actions of individuals throughout the country against people of color, especially the African American community. Fitchburg will be better and we will lead the fight against systems of oppression. Fitchburg is one of the most diverse communities in Wisconsin. It is one of our best qualities. Everyone is welcome here and everyone needs to feel safe here.

Aaron – Fitchburg Mayor

Dorothy, Gabriella, Joe, Julia, Randy, Sarah, Shannon, Tom – Fitchburg City Council

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