As the President of the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement, I am angry and grieving this week with many of you who are looking for words and wrestling with emotion.  The killing of George Floyd, a human being, on live video, by a calm, armed and uniformed officer is devastating for all of us.  This following the killing of Breonna Taylor in March has further influenced our communities' ability to trust the police.

My heart goes out to Mr. Floyd's and Ms. Taylor's families and friends and to all those who are grieving and angry.  Being a law enforcement oversight professional and dedicating my career and passion to accountable policing is difficult today.  I want to support my peers, especially those in Minneapolis, including Imani Jaafar, the Director of the Office of Police Conduct Review, as well as the Police Conduct Oversight Commission.  Our colleagues in their respective cities work day in and day out to stop police misconduct and I want everyone to know that there are thousands of us on the front lines each day doing this work, seeing the videos and grieving with the families of police misconduct victims.

I also want to tell you a story a former law enforcement professional told me because his thoughts were profound.  He said that he would likely have been shot on the scene of Mr. Floyd's death if he were there because he could not have stood by and watched it happen.  He would have had to stop it.  I leave you with this thought because when I heard it, I found power and purpose to keep grieving but to also keep working hard for fair and community-based policing.

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