

Media Release
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CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT NECESSARY FOR MEANINGFUL REFORM

June 2, 2020 - The National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) and its members are angry and grieving after yet another senseless, unjustified death of a human being at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve. The death of George Floyd, captured on video, caused by the actions of a seemingly calm, armed, and uniformed officer, now charged with murder, is devastating for all of us, and we must continue to speak up, protest, and diligently work to end the systemic racism that plagues our criminal justice system – and indeed our entire society.

NACOLE was founded on the belief that policing should be fair and consistent, and that independent civilian oversight leads to more effective policing and safer communities. We applaud the thousands of professionals practicing civilian oversight of law enforcement nationally, who have dedicated their lives and careers to accountable policing. We support agencies such as the Office of Police Conduct Review and the Police Conduct Oversight Commission in Minneapolis. Despite the progress law enforcement oversight agencies across the country have made, much work remains if we hope to achieve lasting and meaningful law enforcement and criminal justice reform.

To start, NACOLE strongly recommends that the U.S. Department of Justice once again conduct systematic and thorough pattern-or-practice investigations.

We strongly recommend that legislatures repeal laws that conceal police disciplinary records from public view.

We strongly recommend changes to state licensing laws and the mandatory use of a national de-certification index to prevent bad officers, terminated from one police force, from getting a job at another.

We strongly recommend that state and local laws and law enforcement policies and procedures require the greatest possible transparency of internal processes, community inclusion, and strong accountability mechanisms.

We strongly recommend that oversight entities have unfettered access to department data and records, personnel files, and police, jail, and prison facilities, so that they can carry out their existing mandates.

We strongly recommend that oversight agencies have the authority to investigate, take testimony, audit or review internal investigations or processes, and make policy recommendations that will allow law enforcement departments to begin to serve communities in a truly just and unbiased way.

Established in 1995, NACOLE is a nonprofit organization that works to build accountability, transparency, and community trust in law enforcement. In the United States, NACOLE is the preeminent civilian oversight association and our membership, board of directors, and staff consists of leading experts in the civilian oversight

field. Our training events bring together the growing community of civilian oversight practitioners, law enforcement officials, community advocates, and other accountability experts to meet and exchange information and ideas about issues facing civilian oversight and law enforcement. In addition, NACOLE provides member support and training throughout the year with regional training opportunities, pertinent and ongoing research and outreach, and advises jurisdictions on creating oversight and reviewing the authority of civilian oversight agencies.

More information and resources can be found at NACOLE.org

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