Dear UW-Stevens Point Campus Communities,

Upon learning of the tragic and avoidable police involved death of George Floyd on May 25, I felt the same shock and outrage that most of us share today. As a law enforcement professional who took an oath to protect the innocent and serve the community more than 27 years ago, I cannot explain what I observed in the released video nor can I excuse the behavior of the involved police officers.

The actions of these few officers are not representative of the mission or values of the UW-Stevens Point Police and Security Services. Our officers are committed to unbiased, equitable and fair treatment of all persons with whom we have contact.

I have faith that the efforts of so many on our campuses and in our communities to build relationships with the police and bridge the gaps of racial diversity have not been irreversibly harmed by this event. Together, we must find ways to rebuild the lost trust, learn to respect diversity and be instruments of peace and justice.

On our campuses, University Police will be working with the Black Student Union and other students, faculty and staff members involved with diversity and inclusivity efforts, as well as university leaders, to develop action steps for positive change in our communities. More details will be provided within one week.

Incidents of bias, racism and discrimination will not be tolerated on our campuses or in our communities. If you have a concern, report it to University Police at 715-346-3456 (call 911 if it’s an emergency) Know that your concerns will be heard, reported incidents will be fully investigated and support will be provided by our department and the many resources our campus has to offer.

As UW-Stevens Point prepares our future leaders to succeed and take on these challenges of racism, bias and inequality in our world, we are here to support and protect you. Our Mission Statement at UWSP Police states, “We protect and serve those who will change the world”.

While we continue to heal as a society, I look forward to working together to promote equality and eliminate hate and bias in all its forms.

Sincerely,

Tony Babl, UWSP Chief of Police