



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Statement from Executive Director and Senior Counsel of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration on the Conviction of Derek Chauvin in the Murder of George Floyd

April 21, 2021

Yesterday, a jury found former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin guilty of murder for the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020. As leaders of a national coalition of police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, and correctional officials, we thank the jury for its diligent service in this critical moment in our nation's history.

As we observed in our [earlier statement](#), the killing of George Floyd was senseless and indefensible. Chauvin's choice to use lethal force — kneeling into Floyd's neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds — was inhumane and contrary to good police practice and departmental policy. The jury has found it was also criminal.

While the trial brought a sense of accountability for Chauvin's actions, this is only one step in the ongoing work we must do to promote racial justice and transformational police reform. Law enforcement must center policing around respect for human life, and treat people with dignity and respect, recognizing that Black men and women in particular have suffered disparate treatment in the criminal justice system and by law enforcement for far too long.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Floyd family, his loved ones and community, the city of Minneapolis, and the nation — all of whom despite this conviction — continue to carry the trauma and pain of this devastating loss. We hope that the verdict here can bring some degree of closure while also recognizing that this is a transformational moment; there is much work ahead to promote justice, racial equity, and to build healthy and safe communities.

Ronal W. Serpas
Executive Director
Law Enforcement Leaders
to Reduce Crime & Incarceration
Former Police Superintendent
New Orleans, Louisiana

Taryn A. Merkl
Senior Counsel
Law Enforcement Leaders
to Reduce Crime & Incarceration
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney
Eastern District of New York