

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Chou Her  
Executive Director and Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
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June 1, 2020

Dear UC Merced Police Department Police Officers and Staff,

Over this last week, I have been troubled by the video of George Floyd's killing. I have struggled to make sense of what I saw and fought back the emotions resulting from what I saw. As the Chief of our Police Department, I will express to you that what happened to George Floyd is unacceptable, a crime and an assault on the oath of office we all take as police officers.

Police Officers do not and cannot behave or conduct themselves in this manner. Police Officers cannot and must not allow other officers to conduct themselves in this way. No members of any community should ever be treated in this manner. The death of George Floyd at the hand of a police Officer stains the dedication we have to our profession and the hard work that our organization does to maintain the great bonds we have with our community.

Like many of the hard-working police officers across our country, we must never forget what happened. As police officers, we must stand up when we see injustice and "protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice." These are words from the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and are words we all hold dearly and as words of commitment to our communities.

We must be vigilant to our oath by calling out those who would conduct themselves like ex-officer Derek Chauvin, calling out those who would tarnish oaths which police officers take, and calling out those who seek to aim to hurt our police department and our communities. We are stronger as a community when we are united and when we work together to overcome our differences.

With this I want to express to each of you how proud, I am of all the work our department has done to build these strong bonds we have with our community. I am reminded and proud of how our department continues to connect with our students, our staff, and our faculty with each smile I see on campus and each conversation I am a part of. As a department, I know we care about the people who make up our community.

Our officers have strong ties with our community. They are volunteers for community service groups, volunteers for roadway cleanups, organizers of our youth mentoring program, coaches for city youth sports, advisors for campus clubs, active members of various campus organizations, and so much more. This is evidence of our impact and our engagement with our community.

To this end, I want to say thank you for your commitment to our department values and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chou Her".

Chou Her  
Executive Director and Chief of Police