

From: David Zack <dzack@ashevillenc.gov>
Sent: 6/4/2020 11:58:37 AM
To: Nat Lewis <natflewis@gmail.com>
Cc:
Subject: Re: George Floyd Protest Statement

Thank you Nat. I can't accommodate all of your suggestions. Please know our officers have kneeled repeatedly, myself included throughout the protests.

What happened at the med tent was unacceptable and will never happen again. There is much reform taking place at APD, I can assure you of that.

Thanks again for taking the time to reach out to me

David Zack
Chief of Police

On Thu, Jun 4, 2020 at 11:48 AM Nat Lewis <natflewis@gmail.com> wrote:

Officer Zack,

I'm emailing as a member of the public and as the parent of two young women who have been out protesting peacefully.

Thank you for your clarifying statement about the incident with the med station and water bottles in Asheville. As you are acutely aware, these are challenging times. We seem to be teetering on a precipice, and I worry we will tip the wrong way.

I'm a school teacher and not a police officer, but it would seem to be the best tack during a situation like that protest would be de-escalation rather than its opposite. Police chiefs in places like Santa Cruz, CA and Grand Rapids, MI have gone so far as to kneel with protesters. All we as the public are hoping is that you will treat your charges like humans with loved ones and families. In this situation, simply placing officers at the med table and working with the ANC students to support exhausted protestors would go a long way keeping things safe and would have saved you a nasty public-relations problem.

Good luck and prayers during these trying times.

Best,
Nat Lewis

The easiest way to avoid wrong notes is to never open your mouth and sing. What a mistake that would be.
—Pete Seeger

Also, teach your kids that the color of somebody's skin matters just to the point of you acknowledging their history. It shouldn't be what determines whether they get to live or die.
—Luvvie Ajayi

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