

Chief Halmy on death of George Floyd

[City of Peekskill Police Department](#)

[May 29](#) .

Over the past three months we have been blessed to have so many people reach out to us to simply say thank you. The Peekskill Police Department, like so many other departments in this area, has worked extremely hard to give this community the highest level of service, regardless of the risks. Yet now another senseless tragedy in this country makes people question their appreciation. But make no mistake, we represent everyone in this city, and like most of you, we too are appalled with the actions of Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin and his fellow Officers.

The life and death decisions that a Police Officer makes are often done within a fraction of a second, which is what makes this so disturbing. Time stands still during emergencies. Seconds seem like minutes, minutes can feel like hours. For George Floyd, eight minutes was a lifetime. There are no excuses, the time to alter the course of this conduct ticked by in what seemed like an excruciatingly long eight minutes. Action and inaction are equally to blame.

We as Police Officers take an oath to serve and protect, and the public has an expectation that we will do so in a respectful and professional manner. I condemn the actions of these Officers and promise that the Peekskill Police Department will continue to do everything in its power to make our citizens proud. At this time our sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of George Floyd.

Yours in service,
Chief Don Halmy