



## News Release

### **Statement of Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara on the Settlements with the Pope and Code Families**

April 13, 2023 (Minneapolis) Today, nearly six years after they occurred, we are forced to reckon once again with the deplorable acts of someone who has proven to be a national embarrassment to our profession and the continued harm he has caused our community. More than another iteration of the hateful and violent legacy of this former employee, this is another example of the cancer that has plagued this agency.

Today is not a day for excuses or for attempts at justification. The notion that we are dealing with the bad actions of one officer is false. We are dealing with the ugly consequences stemming from a systemic failure within the Minneapolis Police Department that allowed for, and even at times encouraged, unjust and brutal policing.

I am appalled at the repetitive behavior of this coward and disgusted by the inaction and acceptance of that behavior by members of this department. Such conduct is a disgrace to the badge and an embarrassment to what is truly a very noble profession.

Today, I humbly apologize to Mr. Pope, his mother, and his sister. I humbly apologize to Mrs. Code and her family. I am sorry for the pain you endured that resulted first from this abuse, and further from this department's disgraceful inability to intervene and hold him accountable for his actions.

The Minneapolis Police Department failed not only Mr. Pope and Mrs. Code, but through this failure we put everyone who would later come into contact with this former officer at risk.

It is not enough to condemn the actions and failures of the past. These examples show evidence of a systemic failure, and a department's culture that totally lacked the ability to hold itself accountable to professional standards.

Going forward, we will ensure sufficient processes are in place to identify and intervene early to prevent misconduct and brutality from occurring in the first place. And under our settlement agreement, we will demonstrate that we have done so to independent evaluator before the court.

To be clear, I will have zero tolerance for any conduct by our officers that dehumanizes or brutalizes anyone, regardless of who they are or what they may be accused of doing; and I will have zero tolerance for any conduct by our officers that provides cover for any such despicable behavior. Any officer who does so is a disgrace to those who wear this uniform with pride, and who have dedicated their lives in service of our communities.

We are called to protect with courage and serve with compassion. Our community deserves good policing that reflects community values and is effective at keeping all people safe. As Minneapolis Chief of Police, I expect nothing less.

The Minneapolis Police Department tradition is to recycle the badge numbers that are no longer assigned to an officer. This badge betrayed and so egregiously dishonored will be destroyed, and the badge number permanently removed from our rosters so that no future Minneapolis police officer will be assigned to it.

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