



BALTIMORE COUNTY LODGE NO. 4
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

INCORPORATED

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President's Statement – Baltimore County Police Department Reforms

As representatives of the Baltimore County Police Department, you and your fellow officers continue to demonstrate professionalism and dedication to service throughout the county. Over the last three months, you have provided support and assistance beyond the typical call of duty, ensuring the health and safety of our communities during a global pandemic and a period of tragic loss in communities of color.

As law enforcement officers, we have a trusted responsibility to protect and serve. The conduct of the officers involved in the George Floyd incident in Minneapolis is inexcusable. Their behavior and use of force have no place in our profession. Because of their actions, there is a stain on our profession. As a citizen and as a police officer, I am saddened by the death of George Floyd, and share in expressing my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and community.

We hear the calls from politicians and protesters for reform and change in policing across the country, and, as the leadership of Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4, we stand ready to assist and engage in those conversations. We are not opposed to change. Change in policing is constant. It is one of the things that makes this profession so great. Any truly meaningful change cannot take place without collective involvement for all parties. Politicians, community leaders, and members of the rank and file law enforcement officers need to work together to modify and develop policy that is clear and concise. Officers must have a clear understanding of those policies for them to be effective. And law makers must have a clear understanding of our county and state law enforcement programs and the internal rules and regulations our officers are governed by.

An example of this collaboration can be seen in the 2017 publication of the National Consensus Policy on Use of Force. This publication reflects 11 of the most significant law enforcement leadership and labor organizations in the United States and contains the best thinking of all consensus organizations and may serve as a template for upcoming conversations between law enforcement agencies and those seeking improvements in policing.

For several years, our members have been trained using national best practices in use of force. Those trainings include de-escalation training, Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT), and implicit bias training, the concept of Sanctity of Life, the Duty to Intervene and Report excessive or unnecessary use of force, and the importance of Constitutional Policing. Our agency has been ahead of the curve in all those areas, as evident in our statistics in use of force and arrests. These numbers have continued to decline for over a decade.

As law enforcement professionals, we know you will continue to work hard for the residents of Baltimore County and build meaningful relationships within the communities you serve and who have instilled their trust in you. Please know your FOP Lodge #4 leadership remains committed to our representation of you and your colleagues. To stay updated on the issues impacting our members, visit www.foplodge4.org and follow our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) profiles.

REPRESENTING THE PROFESSIONAL POLICE OFFICERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

