



A Message from the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors

In recent years, we have witnessed a set of horrific incidents in Minneapolis, New York City, and St Louis with the deaths of George Floyd, Eric Garner and Michael Brown, respectively. They represent unconscionable acts of brutality that can never be tolerated, in any form. As Americans, we are challenged to review who we are, what we do and how we can make a positive impact in our community.

Looking internally, we on the Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors recognize it is our responsibility and civic duty to partner with our Police Department to ensure the necessary guardrails protecting equitable treatment under the law are maintained diligently. We are fortunate and grateful that our Police Department has long emphasized this philosophy through active engagement in the community in the form of community policing. Community policing is about building ties with the community, working in a proactive partnership with citizens, building trust, in both directions. However, we recognize it is a philosophy that can erode without continued emphasis, training, and improvement.

Indeed, that is why our new Police Chief, David Mettin, has been making the accreditation from the PA Chiefs of Police a central focus of his on-boarding. That process represents a full-scope analysis and evaluation by an independent third party of the Department's policies and procedures on the selection, training and maintenance of personnel and an inherent way to challenge a department with already admirable track record to get better. Our officers obtain de-escalation training to underscore that the priority for any engagement is a peaceful settlement and resolution to a contentious situation rather than violent altercation.

This is all done because the Department's leadership and officers recognize that the hallmark of a truly exceptional police force is one that understands that the source of its strength resides in its partnership with the community rather than a show of force against it.

There is not a single Plumstead resident that should ever fear for his or her safety due to race, gender, or any other demographic factor. We firmly commit as your Board of Supervisors, in partnership with Police leadership, to never lose sight of this fact and always emphasize that we are stronger when embracing our common humanity than dividing ourselves by superficial traits.