

## TY OF PORTSMOUTH



# **SPECIAL MESSAGE from City Manager Karen Conard, Sunday, May 31, 2020**

**I write to share and support the following message from Chief Robert Merner on behalf of the men and women of the Portsmouth Police Department:**

I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to the family friends and loved ones of George Floyd. We as a police agency are deeply disturbed by what we saw on that video.

These actions and inactions jeopardize the gains that have been made throughout the policing profession in our country.

The death of Mr. Floyd is deeply disturbing and should be of concern to not only all police officers and agencies but all Americans. The officers' actions are totally inconsistent with the training and protocols of our profession.

Law enforcement officers are trained to treat all individuals, whether they are a complainant, suspect or a defendant, with dignity and respect. The callous manner in which this arrest was carried out is reprehensible.

The men and women of the Portsmouth Police Department will continue to work with the community to enhance the opportunity to build the trust that is tantamount in modern day policing.

*Chief Robert Merner*

