

**Springfield Township
Board of Commissioners Statement on the Death of George Floyd**

The members of the Springfield Township Commissioners were deeply disturbed by the death of George Floyd and the actions – or inactions -- of those police officers that led to his death. It should never have happened. No citizen should ever be subjected to that type of behavior by a member of law enforcement.

The incident has rightfully raised a range of questions about the training and protocols in police departments across the nation. In that regard, I wanted to reassure the public that the Springfield Police Department has been proactive on these issues.

Nine years ago, in June 2011, the Springfield Police Department became the first law enforcement agency in Delaware County to earn accreditation through the Pennsylvania Police Chiefs Association.

Accreditation was a detailed and thorough 22-month process that ensured our police department was in compliance with more than 300 nationally recognized professional police standards. Our police department has since been re-accredited in 2014 and 2017.

The exhaustive accreditation process ensures our police department has in place and follows national best practices, policies, procedures and operations. The process includes interviews and ride-alongs with police officers and a review of internal documents. Earning accreditation assures that our department complies with all standards related to disciplinary procedures, use of force, and other standards.

Accreditation shows that our department is committed to excellence. I would also note that it is an ongoing process that requires constant self-assessment by our police officers and police chief.

In addition, some of the current discussion surrounding the issue of inappropriate use of force has shed light on inadequate training of police officers and their supervisors. Here in Springfield, as an accredited law enforcement agency, our police officers are constantly training and drilling. In addition, all supervisors in our police department - individuals at the Sergeant level and above - go through training at either the FBI Academy or the Northwest Institute. Both are nationally recognized facilities for their supervision training programs.

Based on the rigorous accreditation process our police department undergoes — as well as our focus on training and drilling — the citizens of Springfield Township can have the utmost confidence in the professionalism of the officers and detectives of our police department who work every day to keep our families, businesses, and community safe.