



**Manatee County Democratic Chair Tracy Pratt Statement on  
Police Violence Against People of Color  
June 4, 2020**

These past several days have highlighted our failure as a country to eliminate systemic racism, most especially police violence against people of color. We here in Manatee County feel the anguish and outrage being expressed around the country and even overseas following the needless death of George Floyd, and we grieve for all victims of police violence. Data show that black people are three times more likely to be killed by the police than are white people. This must stop.

We support the constitutional right of people to peaceably assemble to protest these injustices and condemn the decision of this Administration to target peaceful protesters in Washington, D.C., with tear gas so that Donald Trump could have a photo op. We also have extremely serious concerns about the President's expressed desire to potentially turn the U.S. military against our citizens. We decry the looting and vandalism that have otherwise marred the people's expressions of solidarity against racism, and we are grateful to members of law enforcement who share our goals of respecting the humanity and dignity of every person.

This is a moment to determine who we are as a country and commit to creating a more just nation. That commitment, however, begins at the local level. We must all work together in our respective communities to establish understanding, build trust, and save lives. We will not be defined by our failures, and together, we can do better.

Tracy Pratt  
Chair, Manatee County Democratic Party