FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven Mayor Releases Statement on Protests on Police Brutality

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Today there was a protest of nearly 1,000 individuals in downtown New Haven surrounding the death of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police and the deaths in Connecticut associated with law enforcement. They gathered in front of City Hall, occupied I-95, and went to the New Haven Police Department.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker released the following statement:

Today New Haven has experienced more than a thousand protesters deeply frustrated by the killing of George Floyd and police brutality. People are understandably angry and want action. I do, too. Currently, protesters are outside of the Police Department and on Route 34. I’m glad to share that so far, the protest has been mostly peaceful, and the New Haven Police Department has shown great restraint. I stand with the residents of New Haven and the New Haven Police to speak out against police brutality. What happened to George Floyd and what has happened to many others must stop. Chief Reyes and I have been abundantly clear about our expectations, that our officers work with compassion, that our officers don’t over-police our neighborhoods, that our officers embody the spirit of real community policing. We’ve also been clear that if there is any complaint of misconduct, we will investigate and hold any officers accountable. I also stand ready to talk collaboratively with the protesters and the community at large to better understand, to listen and to begin to address racism. I hope you stand ready, too. But we must have these conversations respectfully, collaboratively, and peacefully. Otherwise we can’t be successful. I urge New Haven residents with all my heart to be open to these conversations and to protest but do it peacefully. We will get through this very challenging time.

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