ENOUGH SAID.

Pgh Police Chief: ‘Excessive force is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at any level’

Stern warning given to city police officers, after George Floyd, a Black man, was killed by police in Minneapolis

by Rob Taylor Jr.

George Floyd, the African American man who resided in Minneapolis and was known to many as a “gentle giant,” went from vivacious to lifeless, all at the hands of a White Minneapolis police officer who’s now been charged with murder.

Pittsburgh’s police chief, Scott E. Schubert, was so perturbed by what he, along with the rest of the world, saw (video of the May 25 encounter), that he addressed his entire police force in a May 29 letter, effectively telling them to never act anywhere close to the manner that former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin did.

“Regardless of the original crime or what occurred prior to the arrest, a person in handcuffs and face-down on the ground should not lose their life due to the action or inaction of the involved officers,” Chief Schubert’s letter read, released to the media. “I simply cannot comprehend the actions of the officers or their lack of moral courage and duty to intervene and stop the action before it was too late.”

Chief Schubert then added: “As police officers, we have a fundamental duty to care for and safeguard everyone and anyone in our custody…there was no consideration for the value of human life and that is inexcusable.”

The chief and further that “I know firsthand the high level of professionalism, bravery, courage and compassion our officers display on a daily basis. We have sworn an oath and I trust that all of us will use our moral courage to intervene when we see something wrong.”

Thousands of people descended upon Downtown and the area around PPG Paints Arena, May 30, to protest the unjust killing of George Floyd, a Black man, by a White Minneapolis police officer, who was fired and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. See more photos of the protest on Pages A6, A7, and A8. (Photo by Rob Taylor Jr.)