



Town of Carbondale Police Department

511 Colorado Avenue, Carbondale, CO 81623

(970) 963-2662

To Our Carbondale Community,

I have been answering numerous questions from our community on how I feel about the treatment of George Floyd. Let me be very clear, the untimely and despicable death of Mr. Floyd, while in police custody, is completely and utterly unacceptable! As I watched the video of Mr. Floyd's last moments, I felt anger, sorrow, frustration and disgust. I am outraged that this type of behavior is still happening in our country. I am appalled by the apathetic demeanor displayed by four Minneapolis officers as Mr. Floyd lost consciousness and eventually his life. I have an obligation to watch, as horrific as it was, to ensure nothing like that happens here. Had one of those officers had the courage to intervene, a life would not have so senselessly been lost.

The four officers involved do not represent me, Town of Carbondale or our officers in any way, shape or form. I believe law enforcement should positively engage with their community whenever possible. I have the heart of an educator and believe our officers should take the time to educate our community as much as possible. I also believe if an officer takes enforcement action, it should be after engagement and education have proven ineffective. This is what initially attracted me to this community. The Town that is understanding, patient and kind. It is for these reasons I am here; I too share these values. Chief Schilling and I have spoken with the dedicated men and women of the Carbondale Police Department and it is very clear they share the same values we do. During a time where communities face violence, pain, anger, frustration and chaos, I am proud to say we had no need to respond to any crimes this past weekend. I believe this is because our community is different than most. Being that we are a small agency, a heavy-handed officer would stick out like a sore thumb. Those officers do not fit in here.

The Carbondale Police Department invests a lot of time training officers. Our department trains monthly in de-escalation techniques, proper and safe restraint techniques, and more. We have a thorough and robust policy manual regarding Use of Force and other police operations. Our agency recognizes the inherent dangers of using force and make conscious decisions to only use force when other options are not available.

Finally, I want our community to know why officers do what they do. Therefore, we will host a Carbondale Citizen Police Academy in both English and Spanish. Attendees will learn about the Carbondale Police Department from Carbondale Officers. I want our community to meet our officers and see for themselves we are caring and compassionate members of our community.

I want the community to ask challenging questions. It is my goal to continue the legacy of community involvement that Chief Schilling has worked tirelessly during his entire career. Give us the opportunity to earn and maintain your trust, because it is truly an honor to work with and for you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at kwilson@carbondalecto.net

Kirk Wilson
Lieutenant