



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Vernon Koch
County Board Chairman

June 3, 2020

Statement from Chairman Vernon Koch:

I have held back on issuing a comment because this is a time for elected officials to listen. I feared an earlier statement may come across as an empty statement.

Although our community is not as diverse as others, we cannot ignore racism or the injustice that it causes. What happened in Minneapolis to George Floyd is simply wrong and should never happen anywhere in this country.

I support peaceful protest as a means to bring recognition to injustice. I cannot support those that would use this cause as a reason to commit crimes that hurt other citizens. This will damage the message and give support to those that wish to resist any change.

I respectfully ask that protesters be mindful of the current COVID-19 pandemic by remembering to social distance, wear masks, and frequently wash your hands. You will not be helping the cause by exposing yourself, or others, to illness.

I have also discussed this with Sheboygan County Sheriff Cory Roeseler, who stated:

"Our agency is outraged by the events that happened last week in Minnesota. The actions of those four officers were deplorable and should not define how we judge law enforcement as a whole. The family of George Floyd is in our thoughts and prayers."

"I am very proud of the peaceful actions that are taking place in Sheboygan County but I am saddened by the riots and looting that take place nightly in other areas of our state and country. We need to make sure the memory of George Floyd is not overshadowed by the actions of those who do not follow the peaceful demonstrations."