



June 17, 2020

## Joint Declaration on Racism and Marginalized Communities in Central Wisconsin

The President of the NAACP, Derrick Johnson, recently stated that, “The uprising spreading across this country is fueled by systemic racial issues that have been ingrained in the fabric of this nation for decades. As we’ve seen over the last few days, these issues have now manifested into anger, sadness, fear, and confusion. Many throughout the country are left to consider at this moment after watching the horrific footage of George Floyd: When is enough, enough?”

As leaders in Central Wisconsin, we recognize the importance of sending a clear and unequivocal message that we condemn all forms of racism, hate, bigotry, and intimidation. We will not tolerate these things in our communities, and we are committed to fostering a safe climate of mutual respect that leads to the productive dialogue and action needed to improve relationships between the diverse groups and communities we represent.

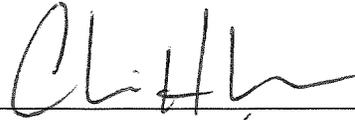
Compounding the difficulty of the situation is a global pandemic, which in addition to exacerbating many of the problems faced by marginalized communities, has also resulted in racist rhetoric about COVID-19 and mask wearing. There has also been at least one recent arrest made by the Stevens Point Police Department where a hate-crime enhancer was recommended due to the racially-charged incident that they responded to.

We are committed to ensuring that all residents have equitable and fair access to public services and that no one should ever have to feel afraid or unsafe in our community. It is our shared responsibility and commitment to educate our community, work with people of color and other marginalized members of our community and, most importantly, take actions to end racism, hate, bigotry, and intimidation in our community.

We invite everyone in our communities to join us in signing on to this statement so that we can hold each other accountable, continue to work together, and to create the spaces we need to accomplish our goals as a community. Please send an e-mail of support to: [countyexecutive@co.portage.wi.us](mailto:countyexecutive@co.portage.wi.us) and your name will be added to the list.

Thank you!

County Executive Chris Holman, Portage County



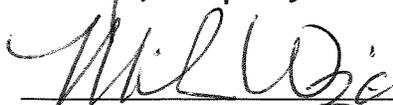
Chair Al Haga, Portage County Board



Sheriff Mike Lukas, Portage County



Mayor Mike Wiza, Stevens Point



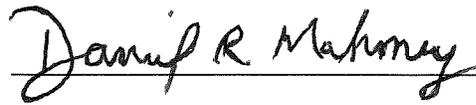
President Meleesa Johnson, St. Point City Council



Acting Chief Tom Zenner, Stevens Point Police



Administrator Dan Mahoney, Village of Plover



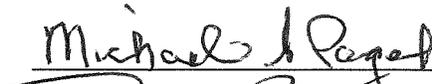
President Tom Davies, Village of Plover



Chief Dan Ault, Village of Plover Police



Chair Mike Pagel, Town of Lanark



Chief Tony Babl, UWSP Police



**Community Supporters**

**Business/Org & City/Town/Village**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_