



REGARDING THE MURDER OF TYRE NICHOLS

– Acting Chief of Police Jon Murad

I have seen and am appalled by the videos showing police officers beating—and killing—Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tennessee. I watched the videos with other police, all of them aghast. The videos showed what courts will likely confirm it to be: murder. It did not look like policing as I know it; it looked like criminality run amok. I condemn it. It sickened me.

In those videos there is nothing of the noble profession to which I and the people with whom I work have dedicated our professional lives. There is nothing of the obligation we have to our neighbors, to keep people safe. There is nothing of the good work that officers perform every day around the country, but particularly here in Burlington, with integrity and compassion. Instead what I saw was egregious and excessive and indefensible.

Five officers violated their oaths and their training and the law—and killed Tyre Nichols. An internal Memphis review determined the officers violated the department's prohibition on excessive use of force, and failed in their duty to intervene and duty to render aid. Memphis Chief of Police Cerelyn Davis fired all five officers. She was right to do so. More officers are under review and from what I saw more discipline will certainly be forthcoming. Yesterday, the five who were fired were each charged with second-degree murder in a court of law. That is a warranted charge. Tyre Nichols's bereaved family—and the Memphis community—deserve to see justice done.

During my nearly two decades of law enforcement, I have never seen anything as shocking and shameful as the brutality in the Memphis videos—nor do I ever want to see something as repugnant again. I pledge to continue working with the Mayor, city leadership, and the community, and to do everything I can, to ensure that such a crime never happens here.

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