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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Statement on Death of George Floyd

Alexandria, VA. – May 26, 2020 – The African American community, and the nation as a whole, has once again experienced the death of an African American male through an interaction with law enforcement. George Floyd of Minnesota died in police custody after an officer pressed his knee to Mr. Floyd’s neck for at least eight minutes during his arrest which occurred earlier that day. Recorded on a bystander’s video, Mr. Floyd is heard repeatedly saying "I can't breathe," reminiscent of the words Eric Garner uttered before his death in 2014 when a police officer put him in a chokehold.

“My heart breaks to witness yet another senseless and dreadful death at the hands of those called to serve and protect. Every person in our country deserves to be treated as a human being and feel safe in their community. This tragic loss of life calls for immediate action and accountability,” said NOBLE National President Cerelyn J. Davis.

While this is a profoundly horrific incident, we are encouraged by the judicious investigations being conducted by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Minneapolis Police Department’s swift decision to address the actions of the officers involved and terminate them is a step in the right direction. “We must hold our officers accountable to protect our communities and each other from danger. NOBLE and law enforcement agencies across the country are left to ask, how do we collectively strengthen public trust, when trust in fact has been breached?”

NOBLE will closely monitor any and all forthcoming information regarding this tragedy, and offers its unwavering prayers to Mr. Floyd’s family, and all impacted. Additionally, this event reinforces our role in the significant work ahead of us as we fight for justice and fair judicial outcomes for every community in America.

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About the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

Since 1976, The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. NOBLE represents over 3,000 members internationally, who are primarily African American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners. For more information, visit www.NOBLENational.org.