Dear (Danielle Hornberger, Jeff Kase, Bob Meffley, OTHERS),

It has now been over a week since the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. This latest example of police brutality against a person of color has ignited a firestorm that has taken over our country, including right here in Cecil County. As the (potential County Executive/a member of the county council) of Cecil County, I would have expected a public and official condemnation of what happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

There is concrete evidence to show that there are dangerous flaws in our country's law enforcement and criminal justice systems that can no longer be ignored. There are many within our community who are hurting and frustrated watching the constant violence and discrimination against people of color. We have seen over and over again that police brutality can no longer be dismissed as an isolated event or written off because of "a few bad apples." High-profile police shootings of unarmed Black people and other incidents of police misconduct, coupled with heavy enforcement of low-level offenses that target the Black community, have eroded public trust in law enforcement. This lack of trust strains police-community relationships, undermines public safety, and is responsible for rising tensions all over this nation.

In addition, the systemic racism that has permeated all aspects of our society since its founding has led to people of color not being represented, valued, or recognized in almost all aspects of our daily lives. From job opportunities, healthcare, education, housing, and economics, people of color have routinely been dismissed, minimized, ignored, and abused. This moment in history calls upon all of us to push for the fundamental and far-reaching change in our communities that is required to right the wrongs that have been continually perpetrated against our Black brothers and sisters.

This means that we need our leaders, including our (county council members/county executive), to use their power and abilities to make serious changes at all levels of our society. I am calling upon you, as a leader and face of our county, to make a definitive statement against the harassment, abuse, and murder of all persons of color and to define the specific steps you are going to take to help lead our town in becoming more inclusive, accepting, and safe for our Black citizens. It is your obligation to lead our county during moments of crisis. Your lack of leadership on this issue has been deafening. I hope to hear your voice soon.

In Solidarity,