



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

Milwaukee Branch Unit # 3254

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March 4, 2021  
Leon Todd  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission  
200 E. Wells Room 706A  
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

**NAACP Milwaukee Branch Statement on the Ban of Chokeholds under the MPD Use of Force SOP**

Dear Mr. Todd:

The NAACP Milwaukee Branch adamantly supports the complete banning of chokeholds being included in the Milwaukee Police Department Standard Operating Procedure 460: Use of Force policy. In today's climate where tensions continue to rise between law enforcement and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities nationwide, this would seem to be more of a prime opportunity to focus on positive police-community relations through the emphasis on increase conflict resolution and de-escalation tactics versus the escalation of aggressive policing maneuvers. This ideological shift could potentially change the growing police-community divide, remove the historically detrimental "us versus them" mentality, and ultimately transform the position of law enforcement from "warriors" preparing for combat to "guardians" protecting the health and safety of all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, etc.

In addition, given chokeholds are not a trained tactic by the Milwaukee Police Department or any other law enforcement agency in the State of Wisconsin, allowing the subjective use "when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself/herself or to others" would not only further denigrate MPD' reputation, but become a liability concern for Milwaukee taxpayers. Since 2015, one year removed from the death of Eric Garner by an illegal chokehold administered by an NYPD officer, Milwaukee taxpayers have paid nearly \$20 million in police misconduct settlements. It is time that we begin to re-imagine public safety by supporting prevention strategies that help lift the city of Milwaukee rather than harm it. Allowing the use of chokeholds, regardless of the arguments for justification, is not the way.

Sincerely

Fred Royal  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
NAACP Milwaukee Branch