



CEO action statement regarding the death of George Floyd

MAY 28, 2020

Chairman and CEO Jeff Harmening signed his name to a joint statement issued today by the CEOs of several major employers in Minnesota, joining together to stand united against acts of racism and violence.

It's a response to the death of George Floyd, a black man who died Monday night after pleading for help as a white Minneapolis police officer had pinned him to the ground with his knee on Floyd's neck.

Here is the statement, released by Children's Minnesota, on behalf of 27 executive leaders:

As business leaders in Minnesota committed to the principles of greater equity, diversity and inclusion in our companies and in our community, we are deeply saddened and horrified by the recent death of Mr. George Floyd. We share our sincere condolences with his family and friends, and all those who mourn this tragic loss. His death while being restrained by Minneapolis police officers is yet another senseless loss of life -- one that reflects deeply ingrained, long-standing injustice within our society. We are encouraged by the quick response of the authorities in terminating the officers and launching an investigation. We anticipate that it will lead to justice and accountability. It is hard to watch the video of the event as it is clearly evident Mr. Floyd was not treated with the dignity and respect he was due as a human being. These acts are painful and traumatic for our entire community, especially our communities of color. The repeated occurrence of racially charged events of this nature are contrary to the close-knit employment and residential communities we desire to have in Minnesota. We are committed to taking steps to eliminate the repeat of events like this in our society and committed to investing in substantive change in our organizations and the communities we serve to address racial inequities and social justice. Change has to start today, and it needs to start with us.

Penny Wheeler, MD - Allina Health

Jay Lund - Andersen Corporation

Corie Barry - Best Buy

Craig E. Samitt - Blue Cross MN

David MacLennan - Cargill

Marc Gorelick, MD - Children's Minnesota

Bob Biesterfeld - C.H. Robinson

Doug Baker - Ecolab

Michael J. O'Leary - Ernst & Young LLP

Jeff Harmening - General Mills

Peter Frosch - Greater MSP

Andrea Walsh - Health Partners

Beth E. Ford - Land O'Lakes, Inc

Geoff Martha - Medtronic

Charlie Weaver - Minnesota Business Partnership

Craig Leipold - Minnesota Wild

Daniel L. Johnson - Mortenson

David Mortenson - Mortenson

Chad Abraham - PSC

Mark Urdahl - Red Wing Shoes

Brian C. Murray - Ryan Companies US, Inc.

Lisa Brezonik - Salo, LLC

Christopher M. Hilger - Securian Financial Group, Inc.

Julie Sullivan - University of St. Thomas

Andrew Cecere - US Bank

Laurie Nordquist - Wells Fargo MN

Ben Fowke - Xcel Energy, Inc