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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement of Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr.  
Regarding the Killing of George Floyd**

June 3, 2020.

As the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney, I want the citizens of our community to know that I not only hear your voices of protest, but I want to add my voice to your cause in seeking justice for the death of George Floyd.

Kneeling on the neck of a person and causing their death is nothing less than murder, a heinous crime for which the person or persons responsible must be charged, convicted, and held accountable. The fact that the perpetrator is a police officer makes the crime even more despicable. The protests over the weekend in Dayton and around the nation demonstrate that people are fed up with the unfair treatment and violence that African-Americans have received by some in law enforcement. The tragic and senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis was the latest horrific example that ignited the frustrations and pent up anger many have felt for years. Many other leaders from around the country, including sheriffs, chiefs of police, mayors, and governors, have publicly stated that what happened in Minneapolis is patently outrageous and unacceptable. I totally agree.

I support and stand with lawful protests of injustice. Peaceful protests by the citizenry are deeply entrenched in American history and tradition. Our founding fathers enshrined in the Constitution the right of the people to freely express their opinions through peaceful protest and demonstration. I do not condone any destructive acts of vandalism, looting, and assaults that have taken place. Such acts harm others and distract from the important message of the peaceful protesters. The story then becomes about broken windows, burnt or spray-painted buildings, and businesses ruined, instead of the senseless murder of a defenseless and unarmed black man. The facts and circumstances and callousness of his murder cries out for justice. I join others in calling for justice for his death and others who have been the victims of racial violence.

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