

# The Star-Ledger

**N.J. ‘will never tolerate’ police practices that led to George Floyd’s death, AG says**

By Blake Nelson

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com and The Star-Ledger

Published May 29, 2020

New Jersey’s top law enforcement official said Friday the state “will never tolerate the types of police practices” that resulted in the death of George Floyd, the Minnesota man whose death in police custody has ignited protests nationwide.

State Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement he was “horrified by the footage of Mr. Floyd’s death,” and the recent arrest of the former officer who knelt on Floyd’s neck was “an important first step in the search for justice.”

The comments came the evening before a planned protest in Newark over Floyd’s death.

Grewal said sweeping police reforms announced in December would help root out misconduct, and he said officials do hold abusive officers accountable, either through discipline or criminal charges.

“But we must do more,” he said, because officers sometimes did use “violent force” against residents “without justification.”

“We condemn such actions, not simply because they are wrong, but also because they do a disservice to the vast majority of law enforcement officers” who are following the law, Grewal said.

Floyd’s death was a national reminder to address “the systemic and implicit biases” that affect many Americans, he said, and the state must work harder to build trust between cops and residents, “especially those from historically marginalized communities.”

Other state officials offered similar comments during the governor’s daily briefing in Trenton.

Gov. Phil Murphy on Friday said the “centuries-old stain of systemic racism is far from being erased from the fabric of this country.”

Col. Patrick Callahan, acting Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, said he was “always deeply troubled by the tragic loss of life.” He added that “in-custody deaths and officer-involved shootings are some of the most complex, intense investigations that need to be rooted in accountability and in justice and in transparency.”

*NJ Advance Media staff writer Brent Johnson contributed to this report.*