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