

Many citizens were incensed by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and even Wake County residents at the hands of law enforcement. Some of you may have taken to the streets to demand an end to systemic racism and injustices. I understand that real change will only come from electing the right leaders who have the education and experience to implement it.

I have developed a plan that has three initial components — policy, training, and data analysis.

First, I will issue policies that require all Deputies and Detention Officers to be true guardians, who uphold the sanctity of human life, and the rights, liberties, and dignity of all persons in all interactions. My staff will be required to de-escalate, use force as an absolute last resort (especially deadly force), provide verbal warnings before it's used, and only then use force that is reasonable, necessary, and proportional to the circumstances.

Also, I will limit the use of police canines; prohibit high-speed vehicular chases except where the subject has committed a serious offense; ban chokeholds in all but the most narrow of circumstances; instruct officers to limit the dangers of positional asphyxiation during arrests, and require them to intervene when a fellow officer is using force improperly or unlawfully.

Second, I plan on conducting listening sessions and solicit public comments from residents, civil rights leaders, and other law enforcement executives to improve law enforcement's culture. I will use this information to develop a new training program that will be interactive, scenario-based, and will require all Sheriff's Office staff to actively apply the new guidelines to the very circumstances that most often lead to improper or excessive use of force.

I have seen too many police encounters involving individuals in mental health crises that quickly escalates to violence, with sometimes tragic consequences. But I have also seen law enforcement deploy strategies and techniques to resolve these situations peacefully. Whether its officers de-escalating a situation with a knife-wielding man by giving him space and time or patiently talking a suicidal man off a rooftop, we know that with proper training, the work they do will help save lives.

Third, all Sheriff's Office staff will be required to report detailed information concerning every use of force using web-based software. This will allow supervisors to actively analyze the data to ensure the force used was lawful and proper. I intend to make this information available to the public as soon as possible after being elected. Going forward, my staff will have a tool to monitor the use of force trends, including racial disparities and the public will finally have visibility into these incidents. Together, we'll see whether the new policies and training are working.

Efforts like these depend on the community. I need your support during my campaign and your vote on election day to make these changes. I look forward to serving as Wake County's next Sheriff.

Thank you,

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