

## **Mayor, Chief Continue on Path to Unite Kenosha**

*Below are statements from Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian and Police Chief Dan Miskinis on the decision by Kenosha County DA Michael Graveley not to charge any police officers in connection with the officer-involved shooting of Jacob Blake on August 23, 2020. These statements are available on video at <https://youtu.be/XCBt9bDZc3A>*

### **Statement from Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian**

We all have just heard the announcement from District Attorney Graveley on his decision not to charge any of the officers in connection with the shooting of Jacob Blake on August 23, 2020. The Wisconsin Department of Justice's independent report contains more than a thousand pages of reports, photos, and other evidence. We are seeing it for the first time today along with all of you. This new information is important, and I encourage everyone to review it.

We recognize that there are many strong feelings and opinions about the decision. Our overriding concern is for the safety of our community – those who live and work here in Kenosha and those who have gathered here to express their opinions.

I want to make this clear – we respect your right to peaceful protest, and we will protect peaceful demonstrations, but we will not – we can not – tolerate the violence we saw in our community earlier this year, and we will take measures to protect the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Before this decision and before the incident of August 23, we have been on a path here where we have been bringing citizens together and engaging in honest discussions about the future of our community. I assure you; that mission will continue.

Thank you for your attention today.

### **Statement from Kenosha Police Chief Dan Miskinis**

The Mayor and I have just heard the announcement from District Attorney Graveley that he has completed a review of the officer involved shooting of Jacob Blake in August of 2020. The case was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and reviewed by retired Chief Noble Wray. DA Graveley announced that he will not be pursuing charges against any of the officers involved in the case.

I have not had the opportunity to read the investigative reports or review the evidence or the input from the expert. I am confident that the independent investigation completed by DCI is thorough and accurate. Although this case took only a few minutes to unfold, it has taken months of investigation and review to come to the DA's decision not to charge. DA Graveley is known for being a thorough and dedicated prosecutor; I have confidence in his decision.

I believe the police use of force deserves scrutiny and I am convinced that the painstaking review supports that Officer Sheskey was forced to make a decision in seconds and that his decision to shoot was not malicious or in any way criminal.

I understand that not all will share my opinion of the findings and some may wish to express their point of view. We respect the right to peacefully protest but urge all to remain calm and not resort to illegal assembly and violence. The Kenosha Police Department has taken and will take additional measures as necessary to protect citizens and businesses from violence.

Across this nation, there has been an identified need to work harder on police - community relations. Here in Kenosha, we are committed to doing better and to forging better relationships and enhancing trust.

Thank you.