Chief of Police Art Avecedo

Houston Police Department

1200 Travis Street

Houston, Texas 77002

Re: Citizen Demand for Implementation of ***8 Can’t Wait*** *Reforms*

Dear Chief Avecedo,

The recent death of George Floyd deeply distresses me. As a resident of Houston, I share your concern for the safety and wellbeing of our citizens.

I thank you for the steps you and the officers under your command have already taken toward police reform and accountability. I appreciate your officers’ de-escalation response to protests, in particular chief taking a knee and walking with arms around protesters.

Still, more must be done.

In Houston alone, there have been 61 officer-involved deaths from 2013 - 2019. I believe this number is as troubling to you as it is to me.

Excessive force and racial bias in all police departments must stop NOW, before another person is injured or killed.

I respectfully request that you put in place the **8 Can’t Wait** ([www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org)) reforms that have not yet been implemented in Houston. The data proves the **8 Can’t Wait** policies have led to a reduction in officer involved deaths and an increase in public trust.

Currently, this is the **8 Can’t Wait** scorecard for Houston

1. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds **Not Implemented**

2. Require De-Escalation **Not Implemented**

3. Require Warning Before Shooting **Not Implemented**

4. Requires Exhausting All Alternatives Before Shooting **Not Implemented**

5. Duty to Intervene **Implemented Successfully**

6. Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles **Not Implemented**

7. Require Use of Force Continuum **Implemented Successfully**

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting **Implemented Successfully**

I call on you to produce a public, transparent, and comprehensive plan of action to implement the **8 Can’t Wait** policies by August 31, 2020.

Please inform me of your progress on or before this date.

Thank you