Dr. Brandon Whipple

​City Hall

455​ N Main, 1st Floor

Wichita, KS 67202​

The Honorable Mayor Dr. Brandon Whipple,

The recent death of George Floyd has genuinely concerned me, particularly with regard to unacceptable police conduct. As a resident of Wichita, I share your concern for the safety and wellbeing of all our citizens. We acknowledge and thank you for the steps you have taken toward police reform and accountability, and more must be done.

Excessive force and racial bias must stop now. In Wichita alone, there have been 13 officer involved deaths from 2013 – 2019, contributing to a total of 75 in the state of Kansas. I believe this number is as troubling to you as it is to me.

I respectfully request that you work with Gordon Ramsay, Police Chief to put in place the 8 Can’t Wait (www.8cantwait.org) reforms. When in place, the data proves the 8 Can’t Wait policies have led to a reduction in officer involved deaths and an increase in public trust.

The Wichita police department has adopted 3 of the 8 Can’t Wait guidelines. Thank you for your contribution to this progress. But the work is not done. I want you to spearhead the adoption of the other policies in conjunction with our police department.

Currently, this is the scorecard for our city:

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

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

3. Require Warning Before Shooting **[Implemented]**

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

5. Duty to Intervene **[Not Implemented]**

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

7. Require Use of Force Continuum **[Implemented]**

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting **[Implemented]**

No one wants to see one more person in our city needlessly injured or killed by police officers, and I know you agree. 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.

Respectfully,

{INSERT NAME HERE}