

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State of Minnesota,

Case Type: Criminal
Court File No. 27-CR-20-12953

Plaintiff,

vs.

**STATE'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO
SEEK AN UPWARD SENTENCING
DEPARTURE**

J Alexander Kueng,

Defendant.

TO: The Honorable Peter A. Cahill, Judge of District Court, the above-named Defendant and Defendant's attorney, Thomas Plunkett, U.S. Bank Center, 101 East Fifth Street, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN 55101.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 244.10, Minn. R. Crim. P. 7.03, the Minn. Sent. Guidelines, *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296 (2004), and pertinent case law, the State will seek an upward-sentencing departure in the above-entitled case. There are at least five bases for an upward departure.

1. George Floyd, the victim, was particularly vulnerable because officers had already handcuffed him behind his back and then placed him chest down on the pavement, and Mr. Floyd clearly and repeatedly told the officers he could not breathe. Minn. Sent. Guidelines 2.D.3.b(1); *State v. Givens*, 544 N.W.2d 774, 776 (Minn. 1996).

2. Mr. Floyd was treated with particular cruelty. Despite Mr. Floyd's pleas that he could not breathe and was going to die, as well as the pleas of eyewitnesses to get off Mr. Floyd and help him, Defendant and his codefendants continued to restrain Mr. Floyd. Defendant Chauvin kept his knee on Mr. Floyd's back to hold him prone on the ground for approximately nine minutes, during at least four minutes of which Mr. Floyd was motionless. This maneuver inflicted gratuitous pain on Mr. Floyd. Those eyewitnesses, of whose presence Defendant was

aware, had to watch Mr. Floyd die. Defendant also did not provide Mr. Floyd with any medical assistance. Minn. Sent. Guidelines 2.D.3.b(2); *State v. Hicks*, 864 N.W.2d 153, 159-60 (Minn. 2015); *Tucker v. State*, 799 N.W.2d 583, 587-99 (Minn. 2011); *State v. Smith*, 541 N.W.2d 584, 590 (Minn. 1996); *State v. Harwell*, 515 N.W.2d 105, 109 (Minn. Ct. App. 1994).

3. Defendant abused a position of authority, as he was a licensed police officer in full uniform who, in conjunction with other officers, took full custody of Mr. Floyd. *State v. Lee*, 494 N.W.2d 475, 482 (Minn. 1992).

4. Defendant committed the crime as part of a group of three or more offenders who all actively participated in the crime. Minn. Sent. Guidelines 2.D.3.b.(10).

5. Defendant committed the crime in the presence of multiple children, and Defendant's criminal conduct was witnessed by children. Minn. Sent. Guidelines 2.D.3.b(13); *State v. Profit*, 323 N.W.2d 34, 36 (Minn. 1982).

Dated: August 28, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

KEITH ELLISON
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/s/ Matthew Frank
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