

**From:** Donnell Tanksley  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 2:04 PM  
**To:** Department Heads; City Council  
**Subject:** Message from Chief Donnell "Tank" Tanksley: Tyre Nichols  
**Attachments:** Tyre Nichols Memo.pdf

Greetings,

Please see the attached memorandum which I sent to our PD team members.

Warmly,

Donnell "Tank" Tanksley  
Chief of Police  
322 H Street  
Blaine, WA  
360-332-6769

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**From:** Donnell Tanksley  
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**To:** PD ALL <PDALL@cityofblaine.com>  
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Please see the attached message.

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322 H Street  
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## BLAINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Duty – Integrity - Accountability

January 30, 2023

RE: Death of Tyre Nichols

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly...” Martin Luther King, 1963.

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, the Memphis Police Department released a series of video footage from a January 7, 2023, incident involving at least five Memphis police officers, other first responders, and Tyre Nichols. Nichols sustained a brutal beating from the Memphis police officers and died from his injuries three days later.

I watched the videos over the weekend. It was horrific and heartbreaking! After the first fifteen minutes, I had to take a break, emotionally catch my breath, and pray to view the rest of the video footage. The actions of these criminal officers were some of the worst I have seen in thirty years of law enforcement. Although this happened almost 2400 miles from Blaine, we should be reminded that “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The first paragraph of the Chief’s Preface in the Blaine Police Department Policy Manual states, “The Blaine Police Department is committed to providing effective and fair law enforcement services to our community. We do this by embracing the tenets of the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics and our core values, Duty, Integrity, and Accountability.” These values are critically important to all of us and the community at-large.

I appreciate your professionalism and dedication to the Blaine Community. I also appreciate your fairness, impartiality, compassion, and awareness of how personal biases (implicit and explicit) can have an extraordinary impact on the community members we contact.

Equally important is your mental health and well-being. We have confidential options available to all team members.

Lastly, I send my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Tyre Nichols and the Memphis community.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnell “Tank” Tanksley  
Chief of Police  
Blaine Police Department