

NBA Statement Regarding State v. Chauvin Sentencing

After a 28-day trial, the jury deliberated for approximately 8 hours, and unanimously found Derek Chauvin guilty of all three charges against him for the murder of George Floyd. Today, former Minneapolis Police Officer Chauvin faced his fate, and was sentenced to a total of 22.5 years behind bars.

While disappointing that he will not get the most severe or maximum sentence, the verdict in this case and sentencing demonstrate the power of our democracy by holding to account a man who had betrayed his oath to protect and serve by wrongfully taking the life of a fellow citizen he was sworn to protect. We again applaud the conviction of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd. We again commend the tireless efforts of our NBA members Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, prosecutor Jerry Blackwell and other prosecutors, who worked diligently to prepare for the difficult and historic trial. We also applaud the bravery and courage of the Floyd family and their NBA attorneys President Ben Crump, Chris Stewart, and Justin Miller. They represent our NBA extremely well.

While the past is a harbinger of the future, we pray the verdict and sentencing in this case can dramatically turn the relentless tide of police brutality against people of color we have all borne witness to over the past few weeks. We also hope today's result will usher in a new era of training, accountability, and judgment nationwide from those entrusted to enforce the law equally. Again, we prayed for the maximum sentence as it would have reflected a stronger measure of justice, but we must remember that our struggle continues and we have a lot of work left to do in policing reform. We **must** fight for the passage of a robust version of the George Floyd Justice and Policing Act.

A Luta Continua, Vitoria e certa (the struggle continues, victory is certain). We **MUST** continue to fight.