NEWS RELEASE

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Black Lives Matter Moab and the Grand County Council

MOAB, UT - Black Lives Matter Moab is a community of over 500 Moabites that was established after the tragic murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers. Over the past two weeks, we have been working collaboratively via zoom meetings, conference calls, and in-person rallies to craft policy recommendations for the Moab Police Department, Moab City Council, the Grand County Sheriff's Office, the Grand County Council, and the Grand County Attorney's Office.

Black Lives Matter Moab was established to address two major problems:

1. A national trend of excessive use of force by law enforcement, disproportionately against Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, combined with a **systematic lack of accountability** to redress those uses of force.
2. A lack of visibility and education of the **rich multicultural history of Moab**, particularly within the Moab tourism industry.

We are encouraged by the Grand County Council's "Conversation on Race and Justice" that will be held today. We believe this is a first step in working proactively to ensure the law enforcement policies that effect Moabites truly represent the will of the people, are not flawed in the ways of other law enforcement agencies across the nation, and - if they are flawed - can be modified through democratic means.

To that end, we propose a preliminary set of policy goals to the two problems listed above. Generally speaking:

1. We *support* law enforcement's **safe and unbiased** enforcement of the law.
2. We *support* the public's review of law enforcement's **"use of force" policies**.
3. We *support* the public's review of any **collective-bargaining contracts** governing bodies have with law enforcement unions.

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4. We *support* **binding oversight** of law enforcement misconduct either by citizens review boards, or by democratically-elected governing bodies directly answerable to the people (ie. county/city councils).
5. We *support* **de-escalation training** for law enforcement, as well as **implicit bias training**, which also considers the LGBTQ+ community, for all law enforcement and all public servants.
6. We *support* **non-police alternatives** to 911 calls involving people with mental illness.
7. We are *against* the hiring of officers or deputies who have been fired from other law enforcement agencies **due to misconduct or complaints**.
8. We are *against* any **suppression of peaceful protests**.
9. We *support* efforts to increase **civic participation** and support local, **investigative journalism**.
10. We *support* efforts to assist the **Navajo Nation** in creating safe, sustainable, and non-extractive jobs for its Native American people.
11. We *support* using public resources to discover more about **non-Caucasian characters and groups in Moab's history**, such as William Grandstaff and the indigenous ancestors of the area.

<u>In furtherance of the above policy goals, we respectfully submit the following questions to the Grand County Council, Grand County Attorney Sloan, and the Grand County Sheriff's Office:</u>

1. What is the process for disciplining a Sheriff's deputy for misconduct? Does the process involve a citizens review board? Does the county council have binding oversight over major disciplinary decisions?
2. Do the Grand County Council or Sherriff's Office have collective-bargaining contracts with law enforcement unions? If so, are these contracts accessible to the public? How can the public access them?
3. What training do deputies receive? Does the county pay for, or encourage, deputies to take any classes conducted by, or informed by, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman or his "Killology Research Group?"
4. It is our understanding that currently the Grand County Sheriff's Office only reports in its budget, purchases of weapons that cost more than $10,000. Can the sheriff's office provide a complete list – either to the county council or the public - of all lethal and less-than-lethal weapons in its inventory that cost less than $10,000?
5. What is the current process for a complaint to be filed against a deputy? Does the public have access to deputies' record of complaints? Do complaints stay on a deputies' records permanently? Does the sheriff's office hire deputies who have been fired or disciplined for misconduct from other law enforcement agencies?
6. What is the budget for the sheriff's office and the county jail? Can we be provided with a breakdown of those budgets?

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7. What are the median and mean hourly wages of sheriff's deputies? Do you think deputies have all the training and tools they need to affect a safe and unbiased enforcement of the law?
8. Are all uses of force by deputies documented by the sheriff's office? Are independent audits of uses of force conducted?
9. County Attorney Sloan, the Times-Independent reported this month that, "you were preparing information to be released publicly about the Grand County Sheriff's Office policies with respect to use of force." When can the public expect the release of the "use of force" policy?
10. County Attorney Sloan, in an interview with KZMU this month you said that law enforcement officers have civil servant protections that make it, "almost impossible to get rid of bad cops." What are some of these protections and how would you suggest they be reformed?
11. Does the Grand County Council have any oversight over the Grand County School District Board? What is the process for suggesting and adding components to the Grand County School curriculum, particularly as it relates to educating students on notable non-Caucasian characters and groups in Grand County history, like William Grandstaff and indigenous ancestors?
12. Are any members of the Grand County Council aware if the Grand County Travel Council has a plan to include marketing with more racially and ethnically diverse people? Does the Travel Council have a plan to increase the visibility of Moab's multicultural history in its marketing? When can the Travel Council be made available for a "question and answer" session?

We appreciate the time the Grand County Council, Grand County Attorney Sloan, and the Grand County Sheriff's Office have offered, and we look forward to working to ensure that law enforcement in Grand County has everything it needs to affect a safe and unbiased enforcement of the law.

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