

Local residents: Black Lives Matter in NE KS

(KAIR)--Residents of local communities Wednesday joined the nation in remembering George Floyd, whose death during an arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota sparked protests calling for changes in systemic problems within policing that negatively affect African-Americans, including deaths.

In Atchison, a crowd of more than 100 gathered on the south side lawn of Atchison's City Hall. Black Lives Matter banners and t-shirts were seen among the crowd.

More of a rally than a protest, and intended for local youth, attendees were joined by members of the Atchison Police Department, first taking a knee to kneel for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the time that Floyd was pinned to the ground, leading to his death.

Atchison Police Chief Mike Wilson answered questions and listened to grievances from those gathered.

Wilson, at the conclusion, told MSC News he felt the dialogue was positive.



(Photos: Brian Hagen/MSC News)

Earlier Wednesday afternoon, protesters took to the streets of Holton.



Photo credits: Left: Jake Spalding/MSC News; Right: Justin Fluke/MSC News

In Hiawatha, a prayer vigil and peaceful protesting event “Hiawatha Believes Black Lives Matter” is set for this evening, Thursday, June 4, around the fountain adjacent to the Hiawatha Police Department in downtown Hiawatha, starting at 5:00. Community members are invited to join.

According to a Facebook post about the event, speakers will include a prayer by Pastor Andrew Finch, comments by Brooke Grier, prayer by Shug Cadue and comments by Jason Thomas, both of the Kickapoo Tribe.

As COVID-19 is still a threat, organizers recommend masks and maintaining

social distancing.

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