

Montgomery Township Committee Resolution (6-04-20)

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ALL ACTS OF RACISM AND RACIST VIOLENCE, INCLUDING POLICE VIOLENCE, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND CALLING FOR DIALOGUE, UNITY AND HEALING

WHEREAS, We are haunted by the vision of George Floyd's tragic killing by Minneapolis police as his pleas for help were ignored by those charged to serve and protect; and

WHEREAS, We understand that this was not an isolated incident. The list of names and similar tragedies are unconscionably long, and an undeniable part of the history and the present of this nation; and

WHEREAS, We extend our sincere condolences to those who knew and loved George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and all those whose lives have been taken by racist violence; and

WHEREAS, Systemic racism against Black people has existed on this land since the arrival of the first slave ship in 1619; and

WHEREAS, White supremacist groups have become emboldened in our country and bias crimes across the United States have risen significantly since 2016; and

WHEREAS, Black people have experienced racial discrimination by having police called on them by non-Black people solely for their racial identity; and

WHEREAS, As public officials, these tragedies make us reflect on our own practices, behavior, and attitudes. We question whether we are doing enough, are we vigilant enough, have we fostered a true culture of respect and honesty? We strive to remain ever-thoughtful in our work – as public officials – to ensure that all members of our community are safe, protected, respected, and served by their public servants; and

WHEREAS, As public officials, it is our duty to use our legal and moral authority to protect all members of our community no matter their race or ethnicity. It is our duty to foster a community free of bias, fear, intimidation, and violence – a community in which people are not targeted or hurt unnecessarily – and provide equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, We know we can do better as a country and as a community to confront the historic, ongoing, and systemic racism that has brought us to this place; and

WHEREAS, Many people in our country and our community have seen the video of George Floyd's killing and other distressing tragedies and are trying to process the trauma. This is especially painful for those who experience racism in their daily lives. However, the current public health crisis makes it more difficult to connect with sources of support; and

WHEREAS, Many people in our country and our community are disgusted with the current state of affairs and have taken to the streets in protest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Montgomery Township Committee:

1. Condemns all forms of racism and racist violence, including police violence, and calls for an end to the use of excessive force and militarized policing practices in the United States;

2. Demands that all bias crimes, including those perpetrated by law enforcement, are properly investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;
3. Honors those police and other law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line daily while lawfully serving and protecting the public and looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with our local police department to pursue our shared goal of equal protection under the law;
4. Stands in solidarity with peaceful protesters, calls on protestors to eschew violence, and calls on law enforcement agencies throughout the country to protect the civil rights of peaceful protesters and indeed to join with them in their effort to combat systemic racism;
5. Reaffirms our commitment to equality. We will work together with all our community leaders to determine the best ways for us to engage in an honest and open dialogue about how true equity, unity, and healing can be achieved.