



PROCLAMATION

to Honor the Memory of George Floyd and Reflect on His Murder

Whereas: On May 25, 2020, police officers in Minneapolis, Minnesota forcibly arrested an unarmed black Minneapolis resident named George Floyd. The officers placed Mr. Floyd prone on the ground and a police officer pressed his knee against Mr. Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes while Mr. Floyd repeatedly stated that he could not breathe. After about six minutes in this position, Mr. Floyd became unresponsive, and he was declared deceased after paramedics arrived. This incident was captured on a video that was widely disseminated and caused outrage across the country and around the world; and

Whereas: The day after Mr. Floyd's death, protesters began to assemble in Minneapolis demanding the officers involved be criminally charged. Protests have spread to many other cities in the United States, including many cities and towns across this land, including our hometown of Swampscott, Massachusetts.

Whereas: The Town of Swampscott is outraged at the tragic death of George Floyd and stands with all those citizens across this Nation demanding changes and for justice and equality. We stand with all those who are demanding changes to laws that will ensure that we will all be treated equally under the law as we stand together listening, and learning, and working for justice as we build a better future.

Whereas: The Town of Swampscott is anguished by the brutal suffocation of George Floyd and it remains a shocking failure that many African Americans, especially young African American men and women, are unfairly harassed and threatened in their own country.

Now Therefore: By the authority vested in the Swampscott Select Board, we do hereby sign this Official Proclamation of Condemnation and urge others to join us in calling for our President, our Congress, U.S. Justice Department, and a Federal Judiciary to recognize the ongoing racism that has continued to destroy lives and corrupt the values of this great land and do something about it.

In witness whereof, we have here unto set our hands and caused to be affixed the great seal of the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts, this 3rd day of June, 2020.

Peter Spellios
Select Board Chair

Don Hause
Select Board Member

Sean Fitzgerald
Town Administrator

Naomi Dreeben
Former Select Board Vice-Chair

Polly Titcomb
Select Board Member

Neal Duffy
Select Board Member

Ronald Madigan
Chief of Police

Laura Spathanas
Former Select Board Member

David Grishman
Select Board Member

Graham Archer
Fire Chief