

Statement on Racial Justice in the Wake of George Floyd's Death

~Democratic Town Committee, Chester, CT~

The Chester Democratic Town Committee shares the outrage and sorrow of millions of Americans over George Floyd's death, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family, and to all other families who have followed this well-trodden road of sorrows. We mourn the wrongful deaths of countless others at the hands of those who remain unaccountable for their actions.

We are encouraged by the millions of people of all races, religions, ages, sexual or gender identities, citizen status and abilities who have come together to stand against racism, inequality, bigotry and oppression in any guise. All are raising their voices peacefully in protest, demanding change.

We join millions nationwide in opposition to the evils of racism and bias that Floyd's death has again laid bare in our country. We commit ourselves to examining our own role and responsibilities in this national tragedy. And we are determined to understand the systemic, structural and institutional racism that underlies it. We will listen, learn and act to demand change.

As Connecticut's Attorney General [William Tong](#), said recently: "We know this pain in Connecticut because we've experienced it, too. We are not immune from misconduct and brutality and systemic and institutional racism, hate and bias."

We applaud Gov. Lamont's speedy [Executive Order](#) that would [hold police more accountable](#), and we call on the legislature to go back into session to debate and vote on the [22 recommendations](#) on policing reform put forth by their own [Transparency & Accountability Task Force](#). We also urge our state Congressional delegation to work to pass the "[Justice and Policing Act of 2020](#)," containing a sweeping list of needed federal reforms. These are all good starts.

But racism and insidious bias cannot be addressed without challenging the institutional structures of discrimination—economic opportunity, healthcare, housing, education, income inequality, and mass incarceration. We must also address voter suppression of minority communities, and restore the Voting Rights Act that once protected the voice of every citizen.

In the end, we cannot escape our nation's legacy of slavery without engaging in a practice of restorative justice within an inclusive and healing process of truth and reconciliation. We are dedicated to helping accomplish this vital work in the days and years to come. In the immediate, we must all work together to turn out the vote on November 3, and elect leaders who unite, not divide, and who will secure the critical changes that are so urgently needed. **#Black Lives Matter.**

Lori Clymas, Chairwoman
Chester Democratic Town Committee
PO Box 91, Chester, CT 06412
Email: chester.democrats@gmail.com

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Coda: In our town, [we have been inspired](#) by the courageous life and legacy of [Judge Constance Baker Motley](#) who we wish to honor through the work of the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#), which she helped lead 60 years ago. Its President, [Sherrilyn Ifill](#), and her group of intrepid lawyers, are currently providing critical legal assistance nationwide to families who have lost a son, a daughter, a father, or child to police violence. In memory of Judge Motley, we will reach out to them to support [their vital work](#).