



June 29, 2020

Dear Governor Lamont: via email

I am the pastor of the Holy Ghost Deliverance III Tabernacle and the founder of the Lighthouse Ministries and the Take Me to the King Mothers' and Daughters' Retreat.

I have been incensed by the ongoing killings of our black brothers and sisters in the United States. I am a member of groups that want to bring more attention to cases like Breonna Taylor -- who was shot and killed in her home by Louisville police in March. And other women whose names are not mentioned or recognized like Sandra Bland, Shantel Davis, Pamela Turner, Atatiana Jefferson, and Kiana Brown.

Recently, the family of George Floyd made a dramatic appeal to the United Nations for the world to hold the United States accountable for police brutality and systemic racism.

Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother, addressed a special meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council via video address, telling the assembled diplomats "my brother tortured and murdered on camera is the way black people are treated by police in America." Since the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the Virginia Shores in 1619, our people have experienced brutality by the hands of the slave masters, the bounty hunters, the Klan, domestic and state funded violent perpetrators.

According to Channel 8 News Report, the House of Representatives passed a major police reform bill named after George Floyd, but it's unclear if the bill will move forward at all in the Senate. The new bill is called the **George Floyd Justice in Police Act**. It bans no-knock warrants in federal drugs cases, prohibits racial profiling and transforms police immunity laws. It also bans chokeholds and makes lynching a federal crime.

I am in favor of this legislation. I want to ensure that our state and local governmental officials stand for the eradication of police brutality and the social and racial injustices that have plagued our nation far too long. Systemic change, reorganization of funding, racial issues as well as how to engage the police and the community in a positive manner are also a few of my immediate concerns.

I urge you and legislators to support the **George Floyd Justice in Police Act** at the local, state, and national level. I am also in support of Connecticut's Public Act 19-90.

Sincerely,

Rev. Marcia L. Smith

Pastor, Holy Ghost Deliverance III Tabernacle