



City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

ROXANN WEDEGARTNER

Mayor

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A Message from Mayor Roxann Wedegartner

GREENFIELD –

George Floyd. Auhmad Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Sandra Bland. Trayvon Martin. Michael Brown. The list is long and it is heartbreaking every time we are forced to add a name to it as a result of senseless killing of our fellow black American citizens at the hands of police officers. There are undoubtedly countless others that we don't know about because a code of silence permeates these heinous acts.

The depravity and cold indifference of Derek Chauvin as he crushed the life from George Floyd with his knee is hard for many of us to conceive. As a southerner raised among racists, it is sadly not hard for me to conceive. I condemn these killings and the outrageous lack of justice for the victims of these crimes and their families and friends. I am also tired, as many of us are, of having to watch our legal system fail to hold the involved officers accountable in the strictest way possible for their actions. The frustration and anger are real; they're boiling over and uncontrollable right now unless we drastically change course. We cannot change course until we condemn and confront the racism that gives life to these injustices. In four hundred years, we haven't been able to do it; but we must commit to getting it right this time.

As a Mayor with a city police force at her command, I am keenly aware of the importance of having our officers live up to the oath they take to protect and serve without prejudice and with extreme professionalism, under often dangerous and escalating situations. I commit to ensuring that our police force is trained in all aspects of community policing, including critical incident training and de-escalation techniques, that no acts committed by officers that exceeds our use of force policies and results in extreme injury or death will be tolerated.