

**COTTAGE CITY COMMISSION
TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY**

RESOLUTION 2020-04

A resolution to affirm the Town of Cottage City's Elected Officials,' Staff's, and Police Department's moral obligation and commitment to protect the civil rights of Black Lives in the Town, and implement policies and procedures which affirm that Black Lives Matter.

WHEREAS, since the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to North America in 1619, and then bought and sold as slave labor for nearly 250 years, and throughout suffered unspeakable acts of violence, and have continued to suffer inexcusable acts of violence since that time, despite the passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS Black Lives still experience inequalities across many aspects of daily living, and are still unfairly targeted and profiled by many, including law enforcement, throughout this country, at rates beyond what can be reasonably explained; and

WHEREAS racial profiling of Black Lives results in disproportionate rates of arrest, incarceration, and overall exposure of the criminal legal system for Black Lives; and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the American College of Physicians are emphasizing that racism is a public health issue, including in this time of terrible pandemic of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS all people of conscience are justifiably horrified by recent events involving George Floyd and other Black Lives who have been killed by law enforcement officers using extreme and unnecessary force; and

WHEREAS racial prejudice is most harmful when it is held by people in positions of power, it is incumbent on elected and appointed officials, and other individuals in positions of power and influence to speak out; and

WHEREAS communities, including our own, must recognize the need to critically balance the enforcement of law with effective, fair, and transparent police services; and

WHEREAS the Town recognizes and honors the critical role of our Police Department in enhancing the safety and quality of life for our community; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cottage City wishes to add its voice and resolution to the nationwide movement to recognize the need for solutions to these persistent, problematic, and pervasive issues, in light of the recent murder of George Floyd, which follows innumerable acts of violence against Black Lives by police in this country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Cottage City:

1. While recognizing that, since recent changes in its police force with the hiring of a new Chief, the town's police force has shown itself to be exceptional in its dedication to Cottage City townspeople, and has committed to Community Policing, the Town also recognizes that everyone needs to look inward to see where improvements can be made in light of recent events;
2. The Town therefore commits to review its own police use of force policies to seriously consider reforms including the following: banning chokeholds and other unnecessary and dangerous uses of force, requiring training on and implementation of de-escalation practices, requiring warnings and exhaustion of all alternatives before shooting, banning shooting at moving vehicles, requiring officers to intervene when other officers are using excessive force, and adoption of a use of force continuum and comprehensive reporting of any use of force;
3. In this effort the Town will engage the people of Cottage City in addressing the above issues in our town, and seek meaningful feedback from them; and
4. The Town of Cottage City will, based on the above, adopt meaningful reforms where needed in Cottage City.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage.
PASSED this 10th Day of June 2020.

TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY, MARYLAND

By: 
Ann Marshall Young, Commissioner-Chair

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY, as the duly appointed Town Manager of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland, that on the 10 day June 2020 with 5 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes, the aforesaid Resolution 2020-04 passed.


Consuella Barbour, Town Manager