



**A RESOLUTION BY THE SELECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORWICH, VERMONT  
CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD AND STRUCTURAL RACISM**

WHEREAS, the founders of the United States of America declared for all people the unalienable rights of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS, these universal rights were systemically denied to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas and to people of African descent in ways that sought to deny their very humanity through widespread Government-led discrimination, expropriation, torture, enslavement and murder; and

WHEREAS, contemporary American government retains many vestiges of policies that continue to undermine the freedom and equality of BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) communities.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has once again made clear that black Americans in the United States suffer dramatically worse health outcomes than do white Americans, lacking equal access to health care; and

WHEREAS, black people in America continue to live in fear of losing their lives at the hands of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, four Minneapolis police officers, led by Officer Derek Chauvin, committed the extra-judicial murder of Mr. George Floyd, slowly asphyxiating him by kneeling on his neck for eight minutes and forty-nine seconds in broad daylight in front of many witnesses and on camera; and

WHEREAS, in a democratic society, acts by Government must be acknowledged as acts by and on behalf of the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Norwich Selectboard joins the Governor of Vermont, Phil Scott and our congressional delegation, Senators Bernie Sanders and Patrick Leahy and Congressman Peter Welch, in hereby condemning the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Norwich Selectboard recognizes that racism survives not only in behavior and philosophy, but also in the policy structures created by government, and commits itself to being informed by that fact when reviewing and deliberating all future policy and budgeting prerogatives entrusted to the town of Norwich's elected officials.

This Resolution is hereby duly adopted by the Norwich Selectboard on June 10, 2020.

BY:

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Claudette Brochu, Chair



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Roger Arnold, Vice-Chair

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John Langhus

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Mary Layton

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Robert Gere