

For Immediate Release
June 10, 2020

(Norwalk, Conn.) - On Thursday, June 4th, the Norwalk NAACP Branch Taskforce for Peace met with the State's Attorney Office and Local Police Chiefs from Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk, Westport, Weston and Wilton to affirm our relationship and to assess community needs as peaceful protests ensue in the wake of past and present racially motivated bias and murder. Collectively, we outlined a common perspective and reviewed best practices in order to support the communities' right to express outrage, fear and the need for change while maintaining a safe environment for expression. Like so many other communities across the nation, we have been deeply saddened and outraged by the senseless killing of George Floyd and other black lives at the hands of police officers, those of whom society expects to uphold the law and safety of all.

Mr. Floyd's death has led to protests worldwide as the pain and anguish of systemic racism and social injustice has reared its ugly head once again. For far too long, these heinous acts perpetrated on people of color undermine both the hard work of good officers and the positive relationships many have cultivated in our communities. During these difficult times, it is imperative that the Norwalk NAACP Branch, State's Attorney Office and Local Police departments remain resolute in their commitment in pursuing the goals of fair and equitable treatment of all people. Fostering trust among our communities through a steadfast dedication to public service continues to be our top priority.

We, the Norwalk NAACP Branch, State's Attorney Office and Local Police Chiefs believe that taking no action to bring about meaningful change, and remaining silent in the face of injustice and maintaining the status quo, is not an option. Collectively, we understand that policies are not enough; they are only foundational steps. Therefore, we are committed to collaborating on an ongoing basis to develop positive police interactions and enhance our relationships with people of color.

Together, we must move from the seat of indifference and silence to stand up and speak out against systemic racism and social injustice wherever it lives because, **BLACK LIVES MATTER**.

Signed by:

Donald Anderson; Darien Chief of Police
Matthew Brodacki; Weston Police Captain
Foti Koskinas; Westport Chief of Police
Leon Krolkowski; New Canaan Chief of Police
Thomas Kulhawik; Norwalk Chief of Police
John Lynch; Wilton Chief of Police
Richard Colangelo; Connecticut Chief State's Attorney
Paul Ferencek; Connecticut State's Attorney for the District
Brenda Penn-Williams; Norwalk NAACP Branch President
Rev. Jeffrey Ingraham; Norwalk NAACP Taskforce for Peace
Greg Burnett; Norwalk NAACP Taskforce for Peace
Darlene Young; Norwalk NAACP Taskforce for Peace
Mark McElveen; Norwalk NAACP Taskforce for Peace
Eric Fischman; Norwalk NAACP Taskforce for Peace