

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD



TOWN OF ARLINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS 02476-4908

Proposed Language for a Town of Arlington Proclamation which can be read at the BLM Vigil, if adopted on Monday by the Select Board

- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington acknowledges and deplores the history of systemic racism in the United States and in Arlington; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington strongly condemns all racist acts of police violence and extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of George Floyd and the other victims of racially-biased police violence; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington strongly condemns racist acts of oppression in all forms, including institutionalized racism which has targeted Black and brown communities for far too long; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington has initiated and undertaken training programs aimed at strengthening cultural competency and reducing racial, ethnic, and other bias within our municipal and school departments and has provided police officers with de-escalation training to minimize the risk of lethal interactions between law enforcement officers and civilians; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington recognizes the importance of Juneteenth, June 19, as dating back to 1865, when Union soldiers landed in Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation became official, and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington respects the knowledge, experience, and traditions of all who live, work, study, or pray in our town or otherwise visit Arlington and will actively listen to the voices of our African American community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Town of Arlington knows that we must all commit to being human rights champions, fight racism, and stand up as allies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Arlington encourages broad support of the Arlington Human Rights Commission hosted virtual vigil to be held on June 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to mourn deaths due to police violence and to affirm that Black Lives Matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Arlington supports the work of our Police Department, our Town government, and our schools to make them more diverse, equitable and inclusive and commits to seeking further policy and administrative measures in support of this goal, including a series of four webinars to be hosted by the Town starting in June aimed at deepening our community’s understanding of systemic racism and the deep harm it causes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that July 13, 2020 shall be proclaimed as Black Lives Matter Day in Arlington, that a Black Lives Matter banner shall be prominently displayed on Town Hall during the month of June and until this date, and that all residents are encouraged to pay fitting observance thereof.

_____ **SELECT BOARD**

_____ **OF THE**
_____ **TOWN**
_____ **OF**
_____ **ARLINGTON**

A true record.
ATTEST:

By: _____
Board Administrator