



CITY OF BELFAST

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We, the Mayor and Councilors for the City of Belfast, celebrate difference, diversity and individuality among residents and visitors. The City of Belfast is a community that welcomes all.

It is imperative that the City of Belfast continues to work to ensure that our community is inclusive and welcoming to all, and that our message is clear: any act of racial injustice will not be tolerated here.

We denounce the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the countless others who are not named here but are equally important. Black Lives Matter. We hear the pain across our county and join in the determination to do better.

To form a more perfect Union, one that practices racial equality, we must first become comfortable having uncomfortable conversations as we participate in the sharing of experiences. When we fully engage in these learning opportunities, especially as we listen to how vulnerable people of color feel, only then can we start to begin to understand how serious this issue is and how urgent it is to begin to be part of the solution to work towards racial equality.

While we may never fully understand, we are committed to working towards becoming more understanding.

We know that we cannot wash away systemic racism with a slogan or a policy. But we can work towards realizing a new reality for all people. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It is time to listen, learn, and implement policies that reject bias of any kind. It is time to break the cycle.

We, the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Belfast, have an obligation to act, and to take meaningful steps towards addressing the complicated issues of racism, bias, and injustice that are present today in our community. We are committed to working together with each other, our employees, volunteers, and community members so we can all become better versions of ourselves, and to become the leaders of character our communities and our country need to grow and do better.