

**TOWNSHIP  
OF  
LOWER MERION**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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*Engineer*

June 5, 2020

Dear Residents:

We, the members of the Lower Merion Board of Commissioners, understand how difficult the past few weeks have been for our community and communities around the country. In the midst of a pandemic we find ourselves confronted yet again by violence and the troubling issue of racism. At this time, our thoughts and prayers not only go out to the family of George Floyd, but to the vast community which once again calls to our attention injustice. We all strive to do better.

In noting our solidarity and commitment to the never ending effort to improve not merely police and community relations, but all relations, we found ourselves smacked in the face with an unfortunate press release from one of our County Commissioners. Falsely, the release presented itself on County stationery as if it were an authorized statement. It was not. References such as saying that the Black Lives Matter movement is a "left wing hate group" are inaccurate and only serve to unnecessarily divide us as a community. These views are not reflective of the Board of Commissioners or Lower Merion.

If one seeks to find that which is truly reflective of our community, you need look no further than the manner in which our Police Department protected the rights of free expression and property rights as demonstrators took to the streets in Bryn Mawr and Ardmore on June 2, 2020. Over 200 people marched arm-in-arm peacefully down Lancaster Avenue all ultimately taking a knee with members of our Police Department. This, however, should be no surprise to those of us in Lower Merion. We have a long standing Police and Minority Relations Committee which has worked to improve our community. Several years ago we hired a professional consultant who provided guidance in a report which we have strived to incorporate in our practices.

As a Township we have and we will continue to do our best to improve the relationships within our community. We have always taken pride in being one of the State's municipal leaders and to the extent we can continue those efforts, be it in race relations or police conduct, we will do so since that truly is a natural component of our community.

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