

The Town of Upper Marlboro

RESOLUTION: 2020-17
SESSION: Regular Board Work Session
DATED: June 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION IN DEFENSE OF BLACK LIVES AND A COMMITMENT TO ENACTING POLICIES THAT UNEQUIVOCALLY DEFEND BLACK LIFE AND AIM TO UNDO THE EFFECTS OF SYSTEMIC RACISM AFFECTING BLACK PEOPLE IN THE TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO AND THE STATE

WHEREAS, the first enslaved Africans were brought as captives to the colonies and initially what is now the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1619; and

WHEREAS, Upper Marlboro was established by the General Assembly as a port town in 1706, where a large number of enslaved persons would have worked or traveled through the area; and

WHEREAS, the land surrounding the Town of Upper Marlboro was used primarily for tobacco farming which was predominately farmed by enslaved black people; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence adopted by Second Continental Congress in 1776 stated, “[w]e 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;” and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America were enacted following the end of this country's Civil War which resulted in the abolishment of the institution of slavery and the extension of civil and legal protections and the right to vote to Black people who were formerly enslaved; and

WHEREAS, just outside the Town limits lays the sites of three recorded lynching's spanning from 1878 until 1894; and

WHEREAS, many states, particularly in the South, adopted Jim Crow Laws following the end of this country's Civil War despite the enactment of the Thirteen, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments; and

WHEREAS, Jim Crow laws legalized racial segregation and perpetuated the social system existing prior to the Civil War and resulted in Black people being treated as second-class citizens; and

WHEREAS, this country's dreadful history of state-sanctioned violence against Black people persists despite the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments and the adoption of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968; and

WHEREAS, Black people, often, are unfairly targeted and profiled by law enforcement throughout this country at rates beyond proportion; and

WHEREAS, racial profiling of Black people often results in disproportionate rates of arrest, incarceration and overall exposure to the criminal legal system for Black people; and

WHEREAS, Black people often experience inequalities across many aspects of daily living including, but not limited to, housing, education, employment and health care as a result of this country’s aforementioned evolving history and law enforcement practices which erodes the quality of life for Black people; and

WHEREAS, Black people are justifiably outraged by the devaluation of Black life and humanity often found in this country made apparent by the repeated excessive use of force against its Black citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is indisputable that Black lives matter and that all people are created equal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Upper Marlboro, Maryland commits to enacting policies that unequivocally defend Black life and aim to undo the effects of systemic racism affecting Black people in the Town of Upper Marlboro.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners for The Town of Upper Marlboro that this Resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

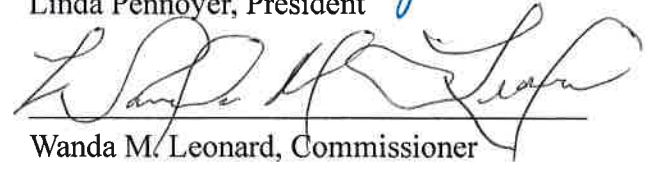


Clerk

Date: June 23, 2020




Linda Pennoyer, President

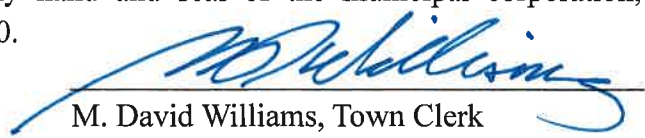

Wanda M. Leonard, Commissioner


Kai Bernal-LeClaire, Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the Town Clerk of the Town of Upper Marlboro and that the Board of Town Commissioners of the Town of Upper Marlboro at a public meeting at which a quorum was present adopted this Resolution, and that said Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended or repealed.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the municipal corporation, this 23rd day of June, 2020.


M. David Williams, Town Clerk