



Office of the  
**SELECT BOARD**

# **TOWN OF NEEDHAM**

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## **Statement by Needham Select Board** **June 3, 2020**

The Town of Needham stands with all well-meaning people in remorse and resolution over the most recent examples of racial disparities and racism in America. We denounce the actions and inactions of the police officers involved in the incident that led to the death of George Floyd. The behavior is unacceptable and out of line with the high standards and professionalism that we hold our officers to in Needham. For healing to begin, there must be a transparent and honest investigation. In Needham, we continue to take action to ensure that what happened to George Floyd and to many other black victims never happens here. Needham's police officers undergo cultural diversity training and practice community policing principles including de-escalation techniques. Our officers continue building and growing relationships every day, getting to know people for who they are, not for the color of their skin, their beliefs, or orientation. They are here to protect each and every person in our town, and they serve us honorably and well. As evidenced by peaceful vigils and protests across this country, people of every color demand an end to the racism and intolerance that has led to the undeniable deaths of so many Americans. These are difficult times. Hatred and discrimination will not be cured through violence. We encourage continued dialogue and hard work to end racial injustice.