



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

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Mayor

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MAYOR'S COMMENT

June 1, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

There are times when our leaders need to speak out about certain issues even when their constituencies are not directly involved. As such, I wish to comment on the events in Minnesota which resulted in the tragic death of George Floyd. Recently the State of Minnesota arrested Officer Derek Chauvin, taking an important first step in the search for justice. We now call for Justice to be done for George Floyd.

Like so many others, I was horrified by the footage of Mr. Floyd's death, and I hope that law enforcement officials across the country continue to make clear that abusive police practices will not be tolerated. Here in New Jersey, we are absolutely committed to a criminal justice system that is fair, transparent, and free of bias. The residents of Closter should rest assured that we will never tolerate the types of police practices that resulted in Mr. Floyd's death. Unfortunately, there remain occasions where an officer uses violent force against civilians without justification. We condemn such actions, not simply because they are wrong, but also because they do a disservice to the vast majority of law enforcement officers committed to upholding the highest standards of the profession.

Closter is blessed with a community of neighbors who care about each other's welfare. Closter has an exceptionally professional police force that could serve as a model for other communities, recognized for its excellence, and committed to serve our culturally, racially, and religiously diverse community. But we are also part of the greater community of the United States. On Memorial Day we spoke of the sacrifices made by men and women in our Armed Forces who fought and died to preserve our freedom. Freedom is not free. We must use every resource to ensure the rights and liberties of all our citizens. As we say before every public meeting we are "...one nation, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." Let us continue to work to make this so.

All the best,

Mayor

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