



June 8, 2020

Dear Fellow Residents,

The horrific killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis two weeks ago has caused us all to reflect on the state of race relations in our country and to question how and why we have reached this point in our nation's history. I was outraged to witness this brutal act of hatred against a fellow human being and appalled that it was committed by an individual who had sworn an oath to protect the public.

That behavior has no role in our neighborhoods, village or country and I categorically denounce it. I am very proud of the Kenilworth Police Department's personnel and their efforts over the last few years to extend their community outreach while maintaining the highest standards of respectful engagement in fulfilling their duty. The events of the last few weeks have made it very clear how lucky we are to be served by a police department that treats everyone—people within our community and beyond it—with respect and kindness.

Our nation's history has shown that exercising one's First Amendment rights and participating in peaceful protests can galvanize public opinion to accept necessary change. We have seen the positive impact of peaceful protest rallies across the country and our village respects all citizens' right to express themselves peacefully.

For too long our country has largely avoided the painful but necessary discussion about our nation's history of structural racism. We can no longer do so. Every single person, irrespective of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, beliefs, or immigration status deserves to be treated with compassion, acceptance, understanding, fairness and respect. As individuals it is incumbent on us to reflect on our own beliefs and actions around racial inequality. As citizens who desire a just society, it is also time for us all to determine how we can work to bring change. As a community it is up to us to create and refine a welcoming space for all. The question is how will we ensure that our intention becomes a reality.

The Village Board recognizes that there is great benefit in regularly reviewing its policies and procedures and that recent events provide us with the opportunity to reassess these given the new perspectives recent events have sparked. Over the next several months, we will be doing so.

There is no doubt that we are living through extraordinary, pivotal times which are proving to be thought-provoking and challenging. I see this period as an opportunity to personally reassess my own principles and as moment to make a great community even better.

Warmest regards,

Ann S. Potter  
Village President