

## **BELMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

### **ACTIONS AND VOICES OF THE UNHEARD**

The Belmont Human Rights Commission strongly condemns the actions of Police Officer Derek Chauvin in the horrific death of George Floyd on May 25<sup>th</sup> on the streets of Minneapolis. Witnessing the video footage of Mr. Floyd's inhumane treatment by an uncaring officer of the law must give us all pause to question how someone entrusted to uphold the law could behave with such wanton brutality. The refusal to let Mr. Floyd's repeated cries of "I can't breathe" penetrate and be acknowledged speaks to the cruelty and complicity of each officer on the scene. Fortunately, charges against Officer Chauvin have been upgraded to second degree murder, and other three officers were finally charged with aiding in Mr. Floyd's murder.

In protests across the country, we are witnessing the actions and hearing the voices of the unheard, community members for whom this event was just the final straw of myriad layers of unjust and unequal treatment. Too many people feel cast aside, subject to the whims of others more powerful than themselves who act with impunity. We must all wake up and become staunch allies to those who are brutalized, disenfranchised, and shattered by the unequal treatment that is their everyday experience.

We as community members can speak out, put up a Black Lives Matter sign on our lawns, question and act to change unjust practices and policies, and stand up in our personal lives when we see discriminatory and hateful behavior. It is too easy to fall back into complacency, but without meaningful change, we will be back here in this present moment again and communities will continue to suffer irreparable damage. Let us all commit to being a part the change that needs to happen.

The Human Rights Commission can be reached at [belmont.hrc@gmail.com](mailto:belmont.hrc@gmail.com) or 617-993-2795. We are here to support the Belmont community in the work ahead.

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