

Motion made by Councilor Young,  
Seconded by Councilor Docter

DEWITT TOWN BOARD  
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF  
GEORGE FLOYD IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, we, along with the entire country, were horrified to watch Minneapolis resident George Floyd, arrested and subdued, suffocated to death under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer while he cried out for help; and

WHEREAS, we are equally horrified by the knowledge that this was not an isolated incident in our country, and that Mr. Floyd joins a painfully long list of people of color who have been killed by police violence across our nation; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Town of DeWitt and Central New York have been devastated by this unnecessary loss of life, and, in their pain and grief, have come together to engage in peaceful protests and to exercise their First Amendment rights to speak out against racism and violence everywhere; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the incidents described above do not reflect the actions or values of the DeWitt Police Department, its officer or leadership, but, sadly, tarnish the image of law enforcement officers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that most police officers, including all of those in the DeWitt Police Department, reject acts of violence, police brutality and the excessive use of force as a violation of the laws and constitutional rights which they have sworn to uphold; and

WHEREAS, we are justifiably proud of the DeWitt Police Department, and its record of strong community relations, and its progressive use of force policy, which includes a duty on officers to intervene and report if they witness an excessive use of force; and

WHEREAS, the DeWitt Police Department has committed to a practice whereby all on-duty officers will wear body cameras in order to keep officers safe and provide protection from false accusations of improper conduct, produce evidence for trials, enable situational awareness, improve community relations and provide accountability to the public;

WHEREAS, for many years the DeWitt Town Council has maintained a diverse citizen police commission consisting of elected Town Councilors, former

federal and state judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, and civilians representing a broad cross-section of the community, in order to better guide and provide direct oversight, increased scrutiny, transparency, advance recommendations, and provide greater accountability and transparency to the public; and

WHEREAS, we know that many young people in our community, and especially young people of color, have viewed and been traumatized by the videos and events described above; yet, sadly, have been unable to connect with friends, extended family, religious leaders or counselors to adequately process their trauma and grief, due to the current public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the killing of George Floyd, and other people of color, has traumatized the residents of our Town, County, and State, and particularly our young people of color, and has threatened the health, mental health and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS, as public servants and representatives of the Town of DeWitt, the DeWitt Town Council has a moral obligation to unite and heal our community by protecting the civil rights and liberties of all people, and speaking out against violence and racism wherever it is found; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature is now meeting or will soon meet to consider legislation to improve the transparency and accountability of law enforcement throughout New York State;

NOW, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council recognizes this somber moment in our history, and condemns the killing of George Floyd, as well as all acts of brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by police officers; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the DeWitt Town Council calls upon our State Legislators to consider and pass appropriate measures providing for police reform, accountability and transparency throughout our State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby is directed to send this resolution to the State Legislators representing the Town of DeWitt, and to the Governor of the State of New York.

Passed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, by a vote of 7-0.