



## **Statement by Trustee Donna Johnson at the June 9, 2020 Village Board Meeting**

“I appreciate Terry articulating the feedback from comments he received, and I appreciate all the work Clint and his team put together. I reflected on the events of this past week and so I felt it was incumbent on me as a private citizen, as a Trustee, as an African American woman, as a lawyer, as a daughter of a fireman, as a niece of a policeman and as a daughter of a military veteran to comment.

Let me start by saying we all know because of COVID-19 it has been a tough two months in America, so the events that have transpired this week are affecting everyone in different ways and we recognize that. For many like me, our hearts are breaking because it is a more personal sensitive issue for me. Yes, all lives do matter as I have heard that referenced, but not all lives are treated so brutally and in such an inhumane manner. One is not the proper response for the other. It does not mean that we don't give credence to one.

All lives do matter is technically correct, but not when it is used to excuse or dilute the message that black people deserve humane treatment. I come from a family as I articulated earlier of police, fire, and military. And I know from that personal experience that the good ones are some of the best men that I know. So, I want to recognize that. I know that in terms of that brotherhood it is like a family in a good way, but I do want to emphasize from my experience of having those members in my family, it is an honor to wear the police and the fire uniform and the military uniform and for those who disgrace it they should be held accountable.

Let me remind you that we each play a role in maintaining Democracy. This is a Democratic issue and we play a role in ensuring it is accessible to all Americans, not just some. If we ignore the inhumane treatment and brutality of George Floyd, we compromise Democracy. It is not just a Black Lives Matter issue. We compromise Democracy as we all know it. So, I ask you and I challenge you to think about what will our legacy be as Americans for our children and our grandchildren. So, no matter where you are on this issue reflect on that and the impact it is going to have on their lives if none of us do anything. And personally, what will your legacy be? You have to ask yourself what did you do to help? Don't make excuses, don't sit back and be silent personally and professionally.

So, I just reiterate what we have all been raised with in the history books. “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal...” So, play a role in making this marvelous country a better place. Do not remain silent. When we lose our moral compass, we are lost. Thank you for your time.” I am a Board Trustee and an American citizen.

### **Village Hall**

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