

As public health professionals, we add our voice to others in Brookline condemning the violent act committed against George Floyd and grieve with his family, his community and our country. We are not condemning just an individual act, but one that must be understood in the context of our country's ongoing struggle with racism and violence directed at people and communities of color. As a society, we have not moved as far from the systematic terrorism of lynching and Jim Crow as many would have us think. Police violence against unarmed black men and women is all too common. It is not random or accidental, and it targets and terrorizes entire communities. It combines with segregation, mass incarceration, and systematic exclusion from educational and economic opportunity to maintain a system of control and oppression over people of color. These are underlying causes of the health disparities experienced by our communities of color. Pope Paul VI said, "If you want peace, work for justice." As a society, we have refused for too long to listen to calls for justice. That work is more urgent than ever.

We are committed to working together with others to foster justice through anti-racism action and inclusion, to ensure peace through the eradication of

police violence and racial profiling, and to improve the health and flourishing of people of color in Brookline. We call on other members of the Brookline community and other departments in town government to join in this effort. We will be working to continue the dialogue and develop action plans over the next weeks and months to share with all. Please stay tuned.