

PROCLAMATION
City Council Statement on Racial Equality and Justice
June 2020

- WHEREAS,** the greater Farmington community, founded by Quakers who were active in the anti-slavery movement, was part of the Underground Railroad system; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills continue in that tradition by respecting the dignity and equality of all people, as exemplified by being among the first communities in Michigan to enact a Human Rights Ordinance; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills believe that all people have the right to equal protection under the law; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills recognize that we are a community where all citizens, regardless of their background, race, religion or national origin, must be treated fairly in the eyes of the law; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills are proud of the rich racial, cultural, and religious diversity of our City, as exemplified by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council that works to assure that all residents enjoy a harmonious, healthy environment, and that they feel welcome and comfortable in their cities, schools, and neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS,** recent national events require that communities of conscience speak out to reaffirm their commitment to these basic values; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills recognize that our nation was built on an economy based on the enslavement of Africans and Black Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills recognize that the racism used to justify and reinforce that perverse system remains a pervasive presence across American culture and permeates our governmental, economic, and educational institutions; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills recognize that the murder of George Floyd is only the most recent horrific example of the breathtaking injustice that persists due to our continued failure to address systemic racism in our country; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills believe we have an obligation to speak out and protect the civil rights of all our brothers and sisters; and
- WHEREAS,** the people of Farmington Hills laud the Farmington Hills Police Department for taking its commitment to protect and serve seriously, for its outreach to residents, for its Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, and for affirming its responsibility to listen to the diverse experiences of the people of Farmington Hills.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Vicki Barnett, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim that the people of Farmington Hills pledge to grow stronger as a community, to serve as an example of how strength and unity are quintessential American commitments, and resolve that the City of Farmington Hills will continue to focus on the best hiring and training practices at all levels of government, to ensure the best possible outcomes for all citizens, and further resolve that the City of Farmington Hills dedicates its government to embodying integrity, accountability, and professionalism, while respecting the U.S. Constitution and its laws in order to ensure equal justice for all.



Vicki Barnett, Mayor