

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE CONDEMNING RACISM, EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND VIOLENCE.

RESOLUTION NO: R-166-2020

REQUESTED BY: Vice Mayor McKenzie and Councilmembers Thomas, Parker, Rider, Fugate, Roberto, Smith and Testerman

PREPARED BY: Council

APPROVED: 6-2-2020

APPROVED AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE: _____

MINUTE BOOK: 84 **PAGE** _____

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd died in police custody following a police officer kneeling on his neck; and

WHEREAS, the excessive use of force by the former Minneapolis police officers resulted in an unimaginable tragedy; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down and murdered while jogging through a neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor was killed by police who entered the wrong home; and

WHEREAS, these three recent deaths are only part of a very long and troubling history of pain inflicted on the African American community; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately the scourge of racism exists in society and victims of it experience pain and fear; and

WHEREAS, racism and social injustice disproportionately affects African Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is not acceptable to participate in the unjust treatment of people of a different race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, the illegal use of excessive force by law enforcement cannot be defended and must be rejected; and

WHEREAS, senseless acts of violence do little to promote a constructive dialogue to improve stressful situations; and

WHEREAS, the diverse cultures in our country contribute to our nation, and that diversity must be embraced.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE:

SECTION 1: The Council of the City of Knoxville hereby officially condemns the unnecessary use of excessive force by law enforcement causing the death of George Floyd.

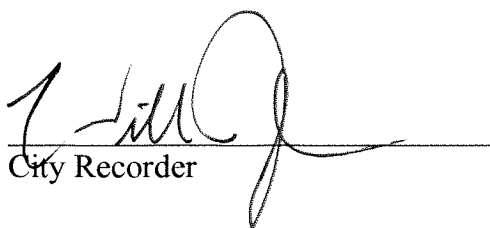
SECTION 2: The Council of the City of Knoxville condemns the killing of Ahmaud Arbery by vigilantes.

SECTION 3: The Council of the City of Knoxville denounces all forms of racism and any acts of violence.

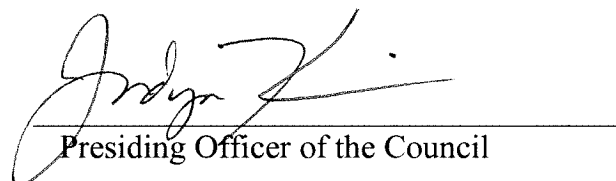
SECTION 4: The Council of the City of Knoxville affirms that to witness injustice or acts of racism and remain silent is complicity and part of the systematic problem we face in eradicating these issues.

SECTION 5: The Council of the City of Knoxville further condemns the scourge of racism that exists today and urges all Knoxvilleians to reject this evil and to love your neighbor.

SECTION 6: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the City requiring it.



City Recorder



Presiding Officer of the Council