



## **Statement on Racism and Racial Injustice**

June 11, 2020

Today, we stand before you united.

United together as Representatives of our local Communities.

United as the Council Presidents and Mayors of Lansdowne Borough, Yeadon Borough, the President of the School Board in William Penn School District and Chiefs of our local Police Departments.

United in our oaths to uphold the United States Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution, which states in Article I, Section I, that all people "are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness."

We are united as representatives of communities that are multiethnic, multi-racial, multilingual and expect justice for all, and equality for all.

We stand United as representatives who are Black and representatives who are White.

We are united in our condemnation of the senseless killing of George Floyd at the hands of officers sworn to protect and serve in the Minneapolis Police Department. We condemn the murder of Ahmaud Arbery who was killed by his neighbors in Georgia while jogging down the street. We condemn the senseless murders and murderers that have not been brought to justice in all states.

We stand united here with our Police Chiefs and our Police Departments in our commitment to seeking justice who are committed to justice and equal treatment under the law. No person is above the law.

Our Police Departments work closely together not only in emergencies such as fires, accidents, or keeping the peace, but also in ensuring that our Officers work with professionalism, integrity and respect. We are committed in our Police departments to the recruitment, the training, the supervision, and community building to build rapport within our communities. We recognize the work of the officers in our departments in building and preserving our communities and the rights of all residents within our community to preserve their inalienable rights.

We stand united in our support of the William Penn School District in their case filed in 2017, *William Penn School District v. Pennsylvania Department of Education*.

We stand united as neighbors in neighboring communities to demand Fair Funding for kids from both communities who walk the hallways of this School together. Currently, our school district is engaged in a lawsuit to bring more money back for our children providing more resources and opportunity which is equitable to white counterparts in more affluent and predominantly white communities. Our children have a right to an equal education in Pennsylvania. Our Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees in Article 3, Section 14, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

Educational opportunity should not differ between schools based upon zip code or geographical boundary. Ending the legacy of systemic racism requires our State Legislature, our Governor, and our Congress to provide more funding for the programming in our schools.

We stand here united to demand our Legislators and Governor fulfill their oaths to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

We stand united as neighbors to build our recreation programs for our kids, our Senior citizens, and all of our residents to share.

We stand united together in our vow to work together on the South side of Fairview and the North, to work together from Lansdowne Avenue to Union Avenue.

We are united by zip code. We are united by community. We are united as neighbors. We are united by schools. We are united in these beliefs.

We are united to help each other breathe. We are united in ensuring our residents can breathe.

On Sunday, on Flag Day, a local peaceful demonstration organized by William Penn School students will walk from the Lansdowne Police Department at Lansdowne Borough Hall to the Yeadon Police Department at Yeadon Borough Hall and on Kerr Field to show support that "Black Lives Matter" and show commitment to fight racial adversity and racial injustice.

We are united in the commitment that "We are here to fight racial adversity and racial injustice."

We are united in our commitment that the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will live up its motto: *E Pluribus Unum*. Out of many one.

Mayor Rohan Hepkins  
Yeadon Borough

Mayor Tony Campuzano  
Lansdowne Borough

LaToya Monroe  
President  
Yeadon Borough Council

Benjamin Hover  
President  
Lansdowne Borough Council

Chief Anthony Paparo  
Yeadon Police Department

Chief Dan Donegan  
Lansdowne Police Department

Dr. Eric Becoats  
Superintendent  
William Penn School District

Jennifer Hoff  
President  
William Penn School District