



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

COUNCIL ON  
AGING

181 HILLMAN STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
02740  
TEL: 508.991.6250  
FAX: 508.979.1514

COMMISSION FOR  
CITIZENS WITH  
DISABILITIES

CITY HALL  
133 WILLIAM STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
02740  
TEL: 508.961.3136  
FAX: 508.991.6262  
TTY: 508.979.1796

HUMAN  
RELATIONS  
COMMISSION

CITY HALL  
133 WILLIAM STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
02740  
TEL: 508.979.1464  
FAX: 508.991.6262

HUMAN SERVICES

CITY HALL  
133 WILLIAM STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
02740  
TEL: 508.961.3136  
FAX: 508.991.6262

NEW BEDFORD  
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IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY HALL  
133 WILLIAM STREET  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
02740  
TEL: 508.961.3020  
TEL: 508.979.1464  
TEL: 508.979.1693  
FAX: 508.991.6262

CITY HALL  
TEL: 508.979.1400

**A Statement from the New Bedford Human Relations Commission, June 4, 2020**

**Sec2-131. The purpose of the commission shall be: To promote mutual understanding and respect among, and encourage and assure equality of opportunity for, all people of the city without regard to their race, color, religion, age, ancestry, mental or physical disability, creed, sex, sexual orientation, nation origin or gender identity.**

The New Bedford Human Relations Commission stands in solidarity with citizens and local organizations conducting peaceful protests throughout the City, State, and Country over the inhumane recent death of George Floyd and other black men and women who recently lost their lives unjustly through systemic racism within the criminal justice system including: Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Walter Scott Eric Gardner and locally Malcolm Gracia, They have created and given life to **The Black Lives Movement**.

For 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the world viewed the complicit behavior of a police officer apprehend and knock to the ground a black man, accused of passing a counterfeit \$20.00 bill, and the painful death that ensued as the life was taken from his body like air rapidly escaping from a balloon. This heinous act has shaken the conscience of America. **THE TIME IS NOW**, to change the course of history with a past of over 400 years of slavery and oppression that continues to follow black and brown citizens not enabling them to live to the fullness of the American Pledge of Allegiance with the promise of liberty and justice for all.

This case has brought forth a new momentum in the fight for justice. In the words of Dr. King, ***“An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”*** It’s time to uproot the seeds of hate and injustice in this country. It’s time to let our voices be heard collectively. It is not a time for complacency. There is a movement of young men and women of all races protesting and marching until victory is won. The difference is this time we are all united all races all ages, all who dare to be a part of the change they want to see in this world.

We encourage and look forward to engaging in more dialogue, protests, community conversations leading to **ACTION** that will change the direction of a painful past to a more just and equitable future.

In solidarity,

The New Bedford Human Relations Commission:

Estella Reberio, Chairwoman  
Martin Bentz, Commissioner  
Marcus Chumacks, Commissioner  
Jeff Costa, Commissioner  
Bethany Fauteux, Commissioner  
Maria Rosario, Commissioner  
Marcelina Pina-Christian, Executive Director