



Dear Residents:

In many ways, the events that we are seeing in cities across the US, thousands of individuals gathering to speak out for racial equality and justice, seem like they are a world away from us. However, the reality is that they have the power to positively impact Woodcliff Lake.

These demonstrations stem from the death of an unarmed African American man at the hands of a callous police officer. Most of us have seen the footage, and I don't know one person who has watched it believing that the actions of the killer, sworn to protect and serve, were justified. In short, George Floyd was murdered.

Particularly striking about the events that led to Mr. Floyd's death was the inaction of the police officers that stood on and watched as the incident unfolded. They took no action, they failed to speak up.

While I am confident that the justice system will deal with the criminal aspect of this case, I believe that it is the lack of action of others that should drive us all to respond, react, and, if necessary, make change.

Ours is a community that prides itself on maintaining a small-town feel, yet at all times remains inclusive and welcoming to all. As we continue to grow and develop an even greater understanding of the societal misdeeds of the past, let us not be blinded by the idyllic standard we have set for ourselves.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," and it is with those words in mind that I welcome the dialogue that is taking place on this issue, and encourage it right here at home.

In Woodcliff Lake we will be a more just and loving community.

Sincerely,

Carlos Rendo
Mayor