The Marblehead Board of Selectmen decries the tragic murder of George Floyd. This senseless, brutal act has horrified and devastated us. George Floyd is the latest of many victims of brutality against people of color in our country. We all need to work together to effect change.

Former President Obama's words of May 29th resonate. He said:

"It's natural to wish for life to 'just get back to normal' as a pandemic and economic crisis upend everything around us. But we have to remember that for millions of Americans, being treated differently on account of race is tragically, painfully, maddeningly 'normal'. But it falls on all of us, regardless of our race or station- including the majority of men and women in law enforcement who take pride in doing their tough job the right way, every day- to work together to create a new 'normal' in which the legacy of bigotry and unequal treatment no longer infects our institutions or our hearts."

Over 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King said:

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

We sincerely hope, in the spirit of Dr. King, that we can continue to depend on the courage of 'dedicated individuals' to turn away from violence and effect change with love and reconciliation in our hearts.