

AGENDA ITEM 16(g) - Black Lives Matter

Amendment

After the end of the first sentence, ending “George Floyd” delete the remainder of the text and replace with:

“The harrowing footage of the murder of George Floyd has quite rightly shaken the world. Tragically this is not a one-off event. It is symptomatic of a deep-set racism in society. While the Black Lives Matter movement is on the frontier of the battle for civil rights and the peaceful resilience of the black community is an inspiration, there are things that we can do here in Portsmouth to stamp out all forms of racism and injustice.

The Black Lives Matter movement has reminded us that there remains considerable violence, prejudice and inequality against BAME communities happening across the UK and here in Portsmouth, whilst Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on this inequality and there is significant actions required locally and nationally. Public Health England (PHE) has confirmed in a report published on 16 June 2020, that people from a BAME background are twice as likely to die from Covid-19 than those who are White British background because of structural and racial inequalities. Those living in a deprived community have higher levels of diagnosis and death rates.

Thousands of people and organisations have made it clear that urgent, collaborative and decisive action is needed. Hundreds have demonstrated in Portsmouth. The Government cannot make the same mistakes if there is a second wave of coronavirus, nor can we in Portsmouth.

Council notes:

- The decision to light Spinnaker Tower purple in commemoration of the tragic and wholly unnecessary death of George Floyd.
- The commitment to engage BAME council staff to assist with the local authority’s response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Council resolves:

- 1) To stand in complete solidarity with BAME communities in America, in Britain, and around the world, by affirming that black lives matter and recognising the work of the Black Lives Matter movement here in Portsmouth.
- 2) To lobby for immediate government action to address the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people.
- 3) To specifically call on the government to:
 - make urgent changes to Government policy and guidance to protect BAME communities as the recent PHE report requested; and;
 - implement the action plan as requested by the Chair of the BMA (British Medical Association) to reduce the risk to BAME employees and to address the underlying issues.
- 4) The Cabinet be asked to work with local groups to ensure BAME voices are heard locally in decision making and to feed into inquiries on the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 5) The Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review on improving communication with BAME community groups by the council to strengthen cohesion, engagement and closer partnership while working to root out all forms of racism and injustice.
- 6) That Officers through the Cabinet be asked to undertake a Review to improve existing learning and development for all Members of the City Council to ensure that as community leaders councillors are aware of the opportunities available to them to actively engage with BAME communities in Portsmouth as well as their responsibilities and obligations in law.”

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Matthew Atkins

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Luke Stubbs

To therefore read as follows:

Council condemns the senseless torture and murder of George Floyd.

The harrowing footage of the murder of George Floyd has quite rightly shaken the world. Tragically this is not a one-off event. It is symptomatic of a deep-set racism in society. While the Black Lives Matter movement is on the frontier of the battle for civil rights and the peaceful resilience of the black community is an inspiration, there are things that we can do here in Portsmouth to stamp out all forms of racism and injustice.

The Black Lives Matter movement has reminded us that there remains considerable violence, prejudice and inequality against BAME communities happening across the UK and here in Portsmouth, whilst Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on this inequality and there is significant actions required locally and nationally. Public Health England (PHE) has confirmed in a report published on 16 June 2020, that people from a BAME background are twice as likely to die from Covid-19 than those who are White British background because of structural and racial inequalities. Those living in a deprived community have higher levels of diagnosis and death rates.

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