

Charette, Jessica

From: Ragliacci <Ragliacci@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Tonight's Legislative Meeting July 14th, 2020
Attachments: County Legislator Communication for Our Meeting July 14th, 2020.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find my open letter to county legislators attached to this email. Please read and respond in kind.

Thank you,

Kristoph DiMaria | Rags | No/Any/All Pronouns Preferred

Cofounder, Director of Development, Musical Director | Will Kempe's Players

www.willkempesplayers.com

Clown, Musician, Officiant, Notary Public, Divination | Ragliacci

Instagram: [@Ragliacci](#) | Facebook: [Ragliacci](#)

Resident Member & Events Producer | Mount Ida Preservation Hall

<http://mountidatrov.org/> | <https://www.facebook.com/mtidacomunity/> | [@mountidapreservation](#)

Organizer, Needs-Matching | [CDNY Mutual Aid Network](#) | info@cdnyma.org | [Resources](#) | [Support](#) | [Contribute](#)
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County Legislators,

My name is Kristoph DiMaria, and I live in the City of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

It is abundantly clear that neither this, nor any resolution will be sufficient in demonstrating real solidarity with the BLM movement. Yet, it is a necessary step towards taking right action in thwarting injustice and reconstructing a community that reflects the rights of all people to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." With the continuing narrative of structural violence purported by policy makers and law enforcement in this country, especially the systemic oppression of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ people, you need to do more and better. We cannot have any other lives truly matter until those of our Black, Brown, Indigenous, Queer, Impoverished, Disabled, Mentally Ill, Elder, Sex Worker, Houseless, and Undocumented residents' lives do. The eleven-thousand community members who showed up in support of Troy's rally are an example of support from within the community and by the grassroots efforts that demonstrate not only the demands of the people and the solidarity of their affinity groups, but also their capability to organize and overcome the obstacles presented by city officials, county legislators, and by agent provocateurs. See us. Hear us. Listen to us. Take action.

I am a long-time resident of Troy and contribute to our community through over a decade of professional hospitality service as well as the performance and education of artistic pursuits across the Capital Region with my small business and a theatre cooperative. In addition, my attention to community needs as an activist and organizer has expanded my awareness to understand that the city and county continue to fail us in crucial ways that range from infrastructural support including safe roads, working streetlights, functioning pools, efficient and timely snow removal, expanded access to public resources such as parks, and simply the horrible fact that we have had several members of our BIPOC community in this city murdered by law enforcement, who have acted with impunity and are rarely brought to any justice. Furthermore, you have encouraged the sheriff's office to collaborate with ICE in accepting capital incentive for incarcerating undocumented immigrants under 287(g). All of these things are unacceptable. There have been coverups, excuses, and silence. There has been cooption, coercion, and corruption. No longer. Do better. Be better. Respond.

Where is your accountability to the taxpayer? The resident? The citizen? You continue to (mis)appropriate resources for what feels like the benefit of a few while relying on the labor of the many to provide it. This is not equity. This is not freedom. This is egregious and fallow in the long-term development and security of the health and well-being of all who live in Rensselaer County. Be an example for the rest of Capital Region, New York State, and all of the United States to follow by the adoption of this resolution and by continuing to work with and for those you swear to serve through transparency and integrity as opposed to the cowardly shadows that seem to move around you.

I am disgusted to learn that the Chairman took initiative in pressuring and threatening other legislators, whose duty it is to serve all of their constituents, and thereby causing them to renege on their signing of this resolution. It is an abuse of power. It is unethical. It is bully playground politics and I expect more, much more, of my elected officials. It has also come to my attention that some of the

initial signatories of this resolution from the City of Troy were also pressured to remove their names. Stop this and all like practices. You serve at our behest and are accountable to the people who elected you as well as those who didn't whom you still serve. Tides will shift if you will not ride the current of transparency and integrity that flows from the demands of your constituents.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

We do not need and will not accept placation. You will not mollify our ire in light of the injustices you have purported through your actions. I strongly urge you to consider another course, or perhaps another career, if you cannot consider doing the right thing. I do appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. I would utmost appreciate your right action on this and all other matters brought to you by our community, especially those of BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and the many other types of residents mentioned in this plea. Do take this resolution seriously. Take us seriously. Take your job seriously. Provide a stepping stone towards equity for those who deserve justice and those who may incur that need in the future, though I urge you to prevent it by all means.

There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.

– James Baldwin

Thank you.

Charette, Jessica

From: Blue Carreker <bcarreker@citizenactionny.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment on BLM Resolution
Attachments: County Legislature Comments - July 2020.docx

July 14, 2020

Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Barbara W Carreker, and I live in the city of Rensselaer. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I can still remember my first July 4th at my new home in Rensselaer. I looked out my window to see the local bands and floats gathering at the top of Broadway and was excited to share in the local celebration. But then I saw the confederate flags and my heart sunk. How could I cheer on and celebrate an official community event that honored those who had fought to divide this nation for the sake of preserving slavery. In 2014????

Thankfully, I have come to know that most people in my very diverse neighborhood are every day Americans who don't have the time or energy to practice outright racism. They are just trying hard to support and raise their families. But I have also come to know that many of our elected leaders are not so reticent or busy. In particular, our Republican leadership seems to enjoy and thrive on aggressive dog whistling and the manipulation of xenophobia and racism to provoke fear, resentment and a politics designed to divide and punish rather than unite and heal.

The recent drama over the proposed Black Lives Matter resolution is a prime example. I support this resolution and urge those who represent my city and county to do the same. I also urge those who truly believe in the words of this resolution to move beyond words; and propose concrete action designed to address the many ways in which past budgets and policies have harmed Black residents and workers in Rensselaer County.

The systematic racism that plagues our nation has driven our Black neighbors and community members into low paying jobs and neglected neighborhood, if not into prisons or early death. Those of us lucky enough to be born white have chosen to focus on our own individual and family needs and aspirations; rather than asking why color seems to be such a predictor of poverty, hunger, unemployment, failing schools and incarceration. In fact, if we examined history, we would learn that the policies and programs that made it possible for our families to thrive were systematically denied to those with dark skin. For too long, we blamed the victims instead of being honest about our culpability and did little to demand change.

We are now in a special moment. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated our racially based income inequality by directly attacking and taking the lives of those we have pushed to the sidelines. In our darkest days, in fact, the ranks of our "essential" and frontline workers statewide were often Black and Brown. Once again, we asked them to put their lives and bodies at risk, often at extremely low wages and without adequate protection, to serve and save ourselves. Only 20% of Black workers are able to work from home! Is it any

wonder that when cameras revealed another series of incidents when police needlessly took the lives of Black men and women, that Black people all across the country finally said "Enough!!"

It was exciting and hopeful to join 11,000 people who participated in Troy's Black Lives Matter rally. It was particularly hopeful to see so many white faces, including some local leaders. Are we actually ready for a change? I think most Rensselaer County residents are ready, but too many of our leaders are not listening, and feel their own power is threatened by the changes that will inevitably come.

A good example of such an embarrassing and sad leader is the Chairman, who was willing to pressure and even threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. Such an approach to leadership should be totally unacceptable and I would urge other legislators to unseat him. Unfortunately, instead of expressing outrage and anger at such undemocratic actions, some legislators actually removed their names as a result of such pressure. I hope your constituents remember such cowardly actions when it comes time to vote.

This resolution is a necessary - though certainly not sufficient - step in acknowledging the existence of systematic racism and continued violence against our Black family members, friends, and neighbors. Our elected should quickly sign it and then move on to the specific examination of county budgets, services, schools and law enforcement in order to eliminate racial bias and begin to make up for what has been denied to so many for so long. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives have already outlined possible next steps. I suggest we start by inviting more of our Black residents into the decision making tables that impact our county

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves and approve the BLM resolution. And then I urge you to get down to making our county budget, programs and systems reflective of the resolution you have signed.

B.W. Carreker
1601 Broadway Apt 2
Rensselaer, NY 12144

--

Blue Carreker
Campaign Manager, Citizen Action of New York &
Public Policy and Education Fund of New York
Facilitator, NY Statewide Paid Leave Coalition
(518) 466-8500

The people who inspire me are the ones who have done more with less, and have gone farther, with more in their way — John Gorka

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves and approve the BLM resolution. And then I urge you to get down to making our county budget, programs and systems reflective of the resolution you have signed.

B.W. Carreker
1601 Broadway Apt 2
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Charette, Jessica

From: Jenn Baumstein <jennifer.baumstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Letter for Rensselaer County Legislature - 7/14/20

County Legislators,

My name is Jenn Baumstein, and I am a homeowner in the city of Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. I am also interested in noting that in this session, there are legislators who are trying to both laud the work of Black organizers and trying to recognize Randall French (who wrongfully killed a Black man) after his passing from Coronavirus. Clearly these are at odds and there is much to address.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is by all means a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country ESPECIALLY given the opposing resolutions being offered.

This issue of addressing past harm, especially between communities of color and the Police is not unique to Troy, and it would be ridiculous to assume such. We are a small city grappling with an immense history related to our history as a country. I am a social studies teacher, and I work to ensure that our students know full well how this country was built and for whom it continues to support. That does not - in any way - mean that we cannot change. In fact, this resolution is a mere recognition that a wrong needs to be righted.

As a teacher, I am disheartened and think we need to do better for our students. They all should know that to vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

"Never forget, love is what justice looks like in public." - Cornel West. We send these messages from love. Love for our siblings who do and don't look like us, love like us, live like us. This is about supporting and not admonishing. Please consider your actions.

Jenn Baumstein
Troy, NY

Charette, Jessica

From: Michelle McCarthy <michellemccarthy24@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for Resolution 36 - Black Lives Matter

Dear county legislators,

My name is Michelle McCarthy and I live at 19 Van Allen Way, Rensselaer NY 12144. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is necessary in the face of injustice against Black residents in Rensselaer County and across the country. Unfortunately, Rensselaer County is far from immune to the racism that permeates our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I was one of the 11,000 who peacefully protested in Troy in defense of Black lives. It was a hopeful gathering of people who recognize that we have much work to do. Passing this resolution is a good first step. I urge you to check out the 13 Demands from Troy 4 Black Lives to learn more about where we go from here.

Voting against this resolution means that you literally cannot take the simplest step forward in addressing the fact that racism exists and that Black lives matter just as much as anyone else. As a concerned constituent, I'm paying close attention.

Thank you,

Michelle McCarthy
19 Van Allen Way Apt 1914
Rensselaer NY 12144

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Charette, Jessica

From: Blue Carreker <bcarreker@citizenactionny.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment on BLM Resolution
Attachments: County Legislature Comments - July 2020.docx

July 14, 2020

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I can still remember my first July 4th at my new home in Rensselaer. I looked out my window to see the local bands and floats gathering at the top of Broadway and was excited to share in the local celebration. But then I saw the confederate flags and my heart sunk. How could I cheer on and celebrate an official community event that honored those who had fought to divide this nation for the sake of preserving slavery. In 2014????

Thankfully, I have come to know that most people in my very diverse neighborhood are every day Americans who don't have the time or energy to practice outright racism. They are just trying hard to support and raise their families. But I have also come to know that many of our elected leaders are not so reticent or busy. In particular, our Republican leadership seems to enjoy and thrive on aggressive dog whistling and the manipulation of xenophobia and racism to provoke fear, resentment and a politics designed to divide and punish rather than unite and heal.

The recent drama over the proposed Black Lives Matter resolution is a prime example. I support this resolution and urge those who represent my city and county to do the same. I also urge those who truly believe in the words of this resolution to move beyond words; and propose concrete action designed to address the many ways in which past budgets and policies have harmed Black residents and workers in Rensselaer County.

The systematic racism that plagues our nation has driven our Black neighbors and community members into low paying jobs and neglected neighborhood, if not into prisons or early death. Those of us lucky enough to be born white have chosen to focus on our own individual and family needs and aspirations; rather than asking why color seems to be such a predictor of poverty, hunger, unemployment, failing schools and incarceration. In fact, if we examined history, we would learn that the policies and programs that made it possible for our families to thrive were systematically denied to those with dark skin. For too long, we blamed the victims instead of being honest about our culpability and did little to demand change.

We are now in a special moment. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated our racially based income inequality by directly attacking and taking the lives of those we have pushed to the sidelines. In our darkest days, in fact, the ranks of our "essential" and frontline workers statewide were often Black and Brown. Once again, we asked them to put their lives and bodies at risk, often at extremely low wages and without adequate protection, to serve and save ourselves. Only 20% of Black workers are able to work from home! Is it any

wonder that when cameras revealed another series of incidents when police needlessly took the lives of Black men and women, that Black people all across the country finally said "Enough!!"

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A good example of such an embarrassing and sad leader is the Chairman, who was willing to pressure and even threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. Such an approach to leadership should be totally unacceptable and I would urge other legislators to unseat him. Unfortunately, instead of expressing outrage and anger at such undemocratic actions, some legislators actually removed their names as a result of such pressure. I hope your constituents remember such cowardly actions when it comes time to vote.

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B.W. Carreker
1601 Broadway Apt 2
Rensselaer, NY 12144

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Blue Carreker
Campaign Manager, Citizen Action of New York &
Public Policy and Education Fund of New York
Facilitator, NY Statewide Paid Leave Coalition
(518) 466-8500

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Charette, Jessica

From: Winston Hagborg <hagborgw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:40 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Black Lives Matter Resolution

Hi Scott Bendette, and Chuck Peers:

I live in Sand Lake and would urge you to support the resolution. At this time in our history it is important to support our Africian American population.

Thank you,

--

Winston Hagborg

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Charette, Jessica

From: Matthew Gantt <matthew.d.gantt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:49 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36

Hello County Legislature,

I hope this finds you well.

I live in Troy's district 5, at 341 4th Street, and am writing today in support of Resolution 36, and the BLM movement in general.

While this resolution appears to be primarily symbolic, it seems that this should be a no brainer that our community should support justice for BIPOC and advocate against systemic racism unequivocally both in name and action.

I encourage you work to make sure this happens at tomorrow's vote.

all the best,

Matthew D. Gantt
District 5, Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Wayne Harbour <wharbour@saratoga-pm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:52 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Defunding the Police

It is sad and disheartening to see that Police are being vilified and disrespected for the actions of a few, while people that choose to disregard the law are being lifted up. (I.E. George Floyd, a known criminal with an extensive background)

Defunding Police and not giving them the training and tools they need to do their jobs safely to protect and serve the community will just increase crime and put theirs and everyone else's lives in danger.

The message being sent to criminals right now is that they are more protected and have more rights than the victims and the police. This is disgraceful!!

Just remember, when you or your family are in danger or have been legally wronged, who do you call, the Police. They will come and put themselves in harms' way for you and your family, your friends and coworkers and anyone needing assistance without hesitation. This should not be taken lightly. Police are human too and have families that, at the end of the day, they want to go home to. They are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters etc. and are dedicated to uphold the law and protect and serve, so let's not forget that they are the good guys not the criminals. The Police and victims should come before the criminals.

Vote NO to defunding the Police!!

Wayne Harbour
Saratoga Project Management, Inc
2 Gilbert Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(518) 462-0555 Office
(518) 462-0552 Fax
(518) 871-3642 Cell

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Charette, Jessica

From: Dan Weber <dweber92@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:53 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36

Hello,

My name is Dan Weber of Troy, NY and I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement in our county and across the country.

I was part of the 11,000 people that came out in Troy to support the Black Lives Matter movement in response to the tragic murder of George Floyd. Although this show of solidarity is promising, there are still countless injustices happening around our country that are being ignored, including the deaths of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald here in Rensselaer County at the hands of our police. Although this resolution is not sufficient to address many issues the Black Lives Matter movement stands for, it is a basic action to begin to address the systemic racism in our county.

Because the simple facts laid out in this resolution are already well known to historians who have looked beyond the simplicity of our country that was taught to us in school, I urge you all to support this resolution. A vote against this resolution is a vote to uphold modern slavery, police brutality, and white supremacy. I hope to see this measure supported and more aggressive legislation introduced in the future so we may continue to progress towards a county, if not country, in which all people are truly equal under the protection of the law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dan

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Charette, Jessica

From: Gabrielle Battaglia <battag@sage.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter

County Legislators,

My name is Gabrielle, and I live in Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is by all means a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country. I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Gabrielle

Charette, Jessica

From: Barbara Higbee <bjhigbee@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Support for Black Lives Matter

I am writing in support of the resolution for Black Lives Matter. We are seeing a sea change in support and interest in the rights of all Americans, and it is important for Rensselaer County to go on record in this matter.

This is the time for Rensselaer County to get on board. Communities across the country are stepping forward, and business leaders are committing money and significant change.

Please pass the resolution supporting Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Higbee

518-339-0274 cell **bjhigbee@gmail.com**

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Charette, Jessica

From: Margo Singer <margosinger@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Writing in support of Black Lives Matter Resolution P/36

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a resident of Rensselaer County for over 35 years and am writing to urge your immediate passage of the Resolution before you.

Last month I was proud to march peacefully with my Rabbi & fellow congregants of Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy (along with 11,000 others) to oppose the systemic racism present in our society. We see it everywhere - in jobs, housing, the criminal justice system, Health care, voting participation - sadly everywhere.

As a Jew - a group that has historically been oppressed throughout the ages- I am keenly aware of the importance of government leaders making an official statement such as this Resolution. And while this Resolution clearly doesn't take any concrete steps to address racism in our community, governmental acknowledgment is an important and necessary first step.

Please do the right thing. This is for all of us, to help create a more equitable society for all citizens.. We need to hear this clear message from our elected officials and I urge your passage of this Resolution tonight.

Thank you,
Margo Singer
Town of Schodack
9 Huckleberry Rd
Castleton NY 12033

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jennifer Hixon <jjhixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In favor of Resolution P/36 supporting the Black Lives Matter movement

I am writing to express my hope that the Rensselaer County Legislature will unanimously pass Resolution P/36 supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. It is past time to recognize and attempt to right the harm that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color have suffered throughout our history, sadly continuing to the present day. I urge the Legislature to take a small step toward realizing the promise of liberty and justice for all by passing Resolution P/36.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hixon
194 Best Luther Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061

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Charette, Jessica

From: Brendan Freiler <freiler.brendan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: comment for legislative meeting 7/14/2020

hi. below is a comment i'd like to be read at the meeting.

my name is Brendan Freiler I live in Troy at:
200 Broadway, apartment 405.

thank you.

--

County Legislators,

I write in support of the Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

To describe this resolution - or the BLM movement - as "hateful" is disingenuous and willfully ignorant. What kind of governing body are you if you will vote down this resolution stating that the members of your constituency, and I will quote directly from the text: "deserve equal protection under the law"?

This resolution is about - and I quote again from the text - "eradicating systemic racism and the harm it causes." It is an acknowledgement of harm. It is a bare minimum action towards mitigating violence against our Black and Indigenous People of Color, but it is a necessary start. Consider the people whom you are supposed to represent. Consider that they are listening and watching right now, hoping that you will act in favor of their liberty and their justice.

Do not align yourself on the side of cruelty.

-Brendan Freiler

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jason <jasonjpew@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support For Resolution 36

Legislators,

I write to you as a Rensselaer County citizen urging you to pass resolution 36 put forth by Cynthia Doran, Peter Grimm, and Mark Flemming, in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. This resolution advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and preventing excessive force by law enforcement. The resolution further goes on to state that people of color deserve equal protections under the law and that we find solutions for wrongs that have been done. I hope that you are moral enough to support those statements in the resolution.

Legislators have also introduced resolutions thanking the police for remaining professional during a peaceful protest and honoring the recently deceased Sgt French. While I agree that the police behaved professionally at the rally, and that loss of life of any kind is a tragedy, it speaks volumes that legislators would prioritize these resolutions during the world-wide Black Lives Matter movement.

Please, pass the Black Lives Matter resolution put forward today. The world is uniting against systemic racism and we are watching to see that you stand with us.

Sincerely,
Jason Pew
4 Elm Place
Troy NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Hunter Share <hunter.a.share@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; cdoran@resnco.com
Subject: Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Hunter Share, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I witness, first hand, the degree to which the racial and socio-economic issues and inequities negatively affect Rensselaer county residents as a housing specialist who focuses on helping the elderly and people with disabilities move out of nursing homes and into independent living in their community of choice. As I drive and walk around Troy NY, I see three luxury apartment complexes going up. These complexes are so exorbitantly priced that even I -- fully employed and replete with privilege in the form of white skin and a savings account to fall back in in an emergency -- cannot afford a one bedroom. My partner and I would be hard pressed to afford splitting the cost of a one bedroom in these complexes. I find myself wondering why development groups such as these are receiving approval in our city when not a single grocery store exists within city limits, and while I am inundated day after day with calls from people who are ready to discharge into the community, but have only a few places within Rensselaer county that are accessible, affordable, and do not have waitlists that are months if not years long. It stings to see people asking for money on a street corner in front of a luxury apartment building. And before you even think of it: no, we don't need police to crack down on these people. We need to build affordable, accessible, supportive housing for these people.

The racism and inequity that plagues this nation, this state, and this county, is so deeply ingrained and systemic, that one must be willfully and maliciously ignorant not to see it. Honoring a Troy PD officer who murdered a black man and openly lied about it is a disgusting and malicious enough response to such inequity. Failing to recognize Resolution 36 is just another blatant and heinous affront.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple

truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

"The children of the revolution are always ungrateful, and the revolution must be grateful that it is so."
- Ursula K Le Guin

HS

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Charette, Jessica

From: Samantha Rivet <sarivet@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:24 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: No to Defunding

Having been a long term resident of Troy, I vote NO to defunding our police. They are already understaffed and exhausted - often been held post work hours and often for full shifts due to the shortage. I have first hand seen it impact the health of many individuals. Cutting the budget for the PD will only cost the city more in the long term, and will impact the quality of officers hired to serve the public in a career that is already having a difficult time filling spots nation wide.

Thank you,
S Rivet

Sent from my iPhone

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Charette, Jessica

From: Katie Gallucci <kngallucci@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Katie Gallucci and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you for your time,
Katie Gallucci

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Charette, Jessica

From: Cardinal, Jennifer <cardij3@rpi.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: resolution in support of Black Lives Matter

Good afternoon County Legislators,

My name is Jennifer Cardinal and I live in Troy, NY and teach at RPI. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

My husband and I moved to Troy a year ago, and have been happy to put down roots and call this community home. I felt inspired and hopeful to see so many neighbors out among the 11,000 who came out to support Black Lives Matter. This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. This ongoing work is a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives are working for racial justice right here in our local communities and have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians, anthropologists, and sociologists already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and so many more Black people have been and continue to be the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennifer Cardinal

Troy, NY 12180

Jennifer Cardinal, PhD
Lecturer, Sustainability Studies
Department of Science and Technology Studies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

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Charette, Jessica

From: Deborah Dewey <deweyd100@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: jloveridge@rensco.com; cpeters@renco.com; sbendette@rensco.com
Subject: Support for the Black Lives Matter Resolution 36

We are all well aware of the ongoing tragedies occurring in communities of color. It is beyond the time to take action. I was at the demonstration myself, as a senior citizen.

I urge all of the legislators to support this, especially those who represent my community. I will be watching how the vote goes.

Deborah

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jenn Baumstein <jennifer.baumstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Letter for Rensselaer County Legislature - 7/14/20

County Legislators,

My name is Jenn Baumstein, and I am a homeowner in the city of Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. I am also interested in noting that in this session, there are legislators who are trying to both laud the work of Black organizers and trying to recognize Randall French (who wrongfully killed a Black man) after his passing from Coronavirus. Clearly these are at odds and there is much to address.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is by all means a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country ESPECIALLY given the opposing resolutions being offered.

This issue of addressing past harm, especially between communities of color and the Police is not unique to Troy, and it would be ridiculous to assume such. We are a small city grappling with an immense history related to our history as a country. I am a social studies teacher, and I work to ensure that our students know full well how this country was built and for whom it continues to support. That does not - in any way - mean that we cannot change. In fact, this resolution is a mere recognition that a wrong needs to be righted.

As a teacher, I am disheartened and think we need to do better for our students. They all should know that to vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

"Never forget, love is what justice looks like in public." - Cornel West. We send these messages from love. Love for our siblings who do and don't look like us, love like us, live like us. This is about supporting and not admonishing. Please consider your actions.

Jenn Baumstein
Troy, NY

Charette, Jessica

From: Nina Nichols <NNichols@UnityHouseNY.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Statement in Support of Resolution 36 - Christopher Burke, Unity House CEO
Attachments: Statement in Support of Resolution 36 - Christopher Burke, Unity House CEO.docx

County Legislators,

My name is Christopher Burke, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I am also the Chief Executive Officer of Unity House of Troy, a human services agency committed to making life better for people by providing direct service to meet basic needs and by working to achieve social justice in our community.

I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Unity House joins with all who are grieving the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the untold numbers of people who are the victims of systemic racial violence. At Unity House we recommit to our founding mission to work toward social justice, which has been at the heart of who we are as an organization from the beginning, and the legacy we inherit from our founder, Mary Jane Smith. We stand in solidarity with Black activists and organizers across New York and the entire country in response to these brutal murders, and pledge to work to dismantle the injustice of racism in whatever form it presents itself. Unless we consistently and actively work to undo the structures of power and culture that uphold white supremacy, we are allowing racist systems to endure. Unless we actively engage in anti-racist work, our power and privilege insulate us from the impact of structural racism.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Christopher Burke

County Legislators,

My name is Christopher Burke, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I am also the Chief Executive Officer of Unity House of Troy, a human service agency committed to making life better for people by providing direct service to meet basic needs and by working to achieve social justice in our community.

I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Unity House joins with all who are grieving the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the untold numbers of people who are the victims of systemic racial violence. At Unity House we recommit to our founding mission to work toward social justice, which has been at the heart of who we are as an organization from the beginning, and the legacy we inherit from our founder, Mary Jane Smith. We stand in solidarity with Black activists and organizers across New York and the entire country in response to these brutal murders, and pledge to work to dismantle the injustice of racism in whatever form it presents itself. Unless we consistently and actively work to undo the structures of power and culture that uphold white supremacy, we are allowing racist systems to endure. Unless we actively engage in anti-racist work, our power and privilege insulate us from the impact of structural racism.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Christopher Burke

Charette, Jessica

From: Michelle Temple <michelleleannetemple@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: in support of Black Lives Matter

County Legislators,

We, Michelle Temple and Jim Shearer, live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. We are writing today in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Mr. Chairman, you are wrong to exercise the power to threaten elected legislatures to remove their names from the initial resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter. To vote against this resolution is to deny the realities of racism and violence against our Black neighbors, friends and family members. To vote for the movement is but a small necessary step towards a response and action to our demands to address structural racism in our city.

Furthermore, Rensselaer County Legislature's honoring of Randall French and the Troy Police Department for the handling of the Troy Black Lives Matter rally is abusive in timing, tasteless to the families of the deceased, and places credit where credit is not due. Despite the culture of fear that was brought upon our city by Troy officials prior to the BLM rally in June, it was Troy 4 Black Lives we should credit for the LABOR, organization, and safety that they implemented for a peaceful demonstration that day. Answer the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives which have been repeated and amplified in letters and shouted outside of your offices since June. They are:

1. End police killings.
2. Create a civilian review board with subpoena power and representation of no less than 60% by those most impacted by violence and police violence.
3. A full investigation into all uses of force by the police.
4. The disentanglement of county government from ICE.
5. The appointment of the Attorney General (by Executive Order or legislation) as an independent investigator and prosecutor in all cases of the use of deadly force by a police officer.
6. The exploration and creation of diversion programs away from criminal justice involvement to community-based treatment alternatives for the mentally ill, youth, and in cases involving drug use and sex work, with a view to reducing unnecessary incarceration which disproportionately impacts economically exploited communities and specifically Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

I hope you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sean Rudowsky <sjrudowsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:49 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; pgremm@rensko.com; cdoran@rensko.com

County Legislators,

My name is Sean Rudowsky , and I am a 7 year resident in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I have been a leader in the RPI community and have supported local endeavors to I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I do not support the praise of any member of our public servant community when their performance is under scrutiny by the general public. This sort of behavior sows disunity by not carrying through the ideas of the tax-paying people and sets a poor example for other public service men & women to follow.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

A certain quote comes to mind,

“Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have” - James Baldwin

Respectfully,
Sean Rudowsky

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Charette, Jessica

From: Emily Wood <wemily810@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36/BLM

County Legislators,

My name is Emily Wood and I have been employed in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County for the last five years. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

As I mentioned earlier I worked in Samaritan hospital in Troy for the last five years. I recently resigned. As you probably are aware Samaritan primarily serves local residents, many of these residents are Black. It baffles me that there are so few service providers in the hospital representative of the people they serve. I was employed as a social worker and specialized in mental health. Over the last five years I worked on all three psychiatric floors in the hospital and an outpatient clinic. I have had one Black social work colleague during this time and this person chose to resign a year after starting their position.

There are so few social workers alone in the hospital equipped in actually helping and serving the Black community. As a white person I cannot ever fully understand the Black experience. I have and always will have white privilege along with most employees at the hospital. Black clients should at least have an option of who they want to work with. The default cannot be a white person. This is problematic and oppressive to the Black community.

Further, the treatment provided to ALL patients needs to be trauma focused ESPECIALLY the treatment of Black patients. It is safe to say that all Black people have had trauma related to their experience SOLEY because they are Black living in an inherently racist society. The assessments and clinical formulations made around Black clients are typically not trauma focused. I have witnessed first hand a white psychiatrist labeling a Black patient they just met with antisocial personality disorder solely based on this client wanting no interaction with the psychiatrist. We need more Black leaders in the hospital otherwise we are not actually serving all people. We are serving white people. This is racist.

During my employment at Samaritan, I brought concerns to management, all of whom are white, on numerous occasions and was met with defensiveness of their beliefs and opinions and ignorance to mine. This type of thinking, this prioritization of comfort by white people is what is killing our Black community.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Sincerely,
Emily Wood

Sent from my iPhone

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Charette, Jessica

From: Kathleen Phiffer <kathyphiffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for P/276/20
Attachments: Kathleen's support for P27620.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Dear County Legislators,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to show my support for resolution P/276/20. My husband, Art Phiffer, and I are new residents of Rensselaer County, having recently purchased a house in the Speigletown section of Schaghticoke. Our participation in the June 7th peaceful protest for Black Lives Matter in Troy was an introduction to the kind of political involvement that is needed now. The protest showed me how participants of all ages, races, and backgrounds could come together against an age old malady within our country ... racism. Over many years, racism has fostered a malaise toward the belief that Black people's lives matter.

As my husband pointed out in his letter, we are a couple dedicated to volunteering for organizations that serve the public good. Our time working for a rehousing organization for homeless people included classes that opened our eyes to the ingredients that sow the seeds of homelessness and hate towards homeless people. Homeless people are also targets of bigotry, revulsion, and brutality, and often pay for this with their lives, but not on the scale that Black people pay ... and continue to pay. Therefore, we are very concerned when our county representatives fail to support the entire community.

Although my white privilege has provided me with the expectation that the police are there to protect and serve, I saw a glimpse of police brutality in front of my parent's house as a ten-year old. An older police officer had pulled a young man over for what seemed like a minor traffic infraction. After handcuffing the young man with his hands behind his back, the police officer punched him in the face and broke several of his teeth. I still remember how sick I felt at the sight of his bloodied mouth and chipped teeth. What also sticks in my mind is the attempt by our next door neighbor (who was a nurse) to help the young man. The officer stepped towards her and raised his hand to mimic what he might do to hurt her. I was afraid for my neighbor by this display of hatred for no reason. This event, which took place in an all-white city, has stood out in my mind for over fifty years. I cannot fathom living in a community and fearing for my life if I was pulled over for a minor traffic stop, or simply walking home after purchasing an iced tea.

Although experiencing this violence at such a young age, I also know that there are police officers who are truly dedicated to defending and protecting **all** citizens. Because I was at the June 7th Black Lives Matter protest in Troy, I was a witness to the behavior exercised by the Troy police department, I am compelled to support the resolution P/242/20, which acknowledges the restraint and support shown by the Troy Police Department on June 7th.

All lives cannot matter unless Black Lives Matter! Because I want all the citizens of Troy, no matter their skin color, to know that I desire their safety, I support resolution number P/276/20.

The time to act against racism is now, but sometimes difficult for white people. Even if we have good intentions, we need to be effective with our words and actions. Of course, if racism is tolerated and people of color don't receive equal treatment under the law, words don't carry much credence. We need to modify our public policy and rhetoric to make sure that none of our valuable members of society are marginalized or forced to live in fear. We need input by the members of Black Lives Matter to improve our discourse, laws and practices in Troy.

Please show your concern for those people who have been marginalized by passing resolution P/276/20.

Thank you for your time and work on my behalf and the behalf of Black Lives Matter ... it does matter for all of us!

Kathleen Phiffer

1 Brielle Drive

Troy, New York 12182

Dear County Legislators,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to show my support for resolution P/276/20. My husband, Art Phiffer, and I are new residents of Rensselaer County, having recently purchased a house in the Speigletown section of Schaghticoke. Our participation in the June 7th peaceful protest for Black Lives Matter in Troy was an introduction to the kind of political involvement that is needed now. The protest showed me how participants of all ages, races, and backgrounds could come together against an age old malady within our country ... racism. Over many years, racism has fostered a malaise toward the belief that Black people's lives matter.

As my husband pointed out in his letter, we are a couple dedicated to volunteering for organizations that serve the public good. Our time working for a rehousing organization for homeless people included classes that opened our eyes to the ingredients that sow the seeds of homelessness and hate towards homeless people. Homeless people are also targets of bigotry, revulsion, and brutality, and often pay for this with their lives, but not on the scale that Black people pay ... and continue to pay. Therefore, we are very concerned when our county representatives fail to support the entire community.

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Please show your concern for those people who have been marginalized by passing resolution P/276/20.

Thank you for your time and work on my behalf and the behalf of Black Lives Matter ... it does matter for all of us!

Kathleen Phiffer

1 Brielle Drive

Troy, New York 12182

Charette, Jessica

From: Brad Cornelius <cornelius.brad@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Tonight's Resolutions

Steven Cornelius
1504 Massachusetts Ave.
Troy

I'm writing to express my outrage at the range of resolutions being taken up in tonight's meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature. We are all happy that there was no violence during the Troy rally, but take a moment to realize what the resolution commending the Troy Police Department really says. That police practices in this country are such that we feel the police deserve kudos for not shoving journalists and elderly men, for not firing tear gas and rubber bullets into crowds of protesters exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and free speech. They did their jobs as expected and deserve no credit for appropriately restraining themselves.

If you would like the same recognition you seek to give to the Troy PD and Rensselaer Sheriff's office, do more than the minimum and address the practices that are at the root of the problem. It is easy to practice restraint when you have had weeks to prepare and know the eyes and cameras of the world will be on your officers. But I'm concerned about the instinctual behavior that happens hundreds of times when no one is watching, during late-night traffic stops and police encounters that too often result in the loss of Black Lives!

Own up to those, commit to transparency when investigating them, and refuse to honor officers who are among the worst offenders. Thank you for your time.

Brad Cornelius

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jennifer Bartels <jennybrooklyn1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolutions 7/14/2020

Jennifer Bartels
2nd St.
Troy

Dear Legislators,

After the May 25th, 2020 murder of George Floyd and the subsequent, nationwide rallies and protests against police violence against Black, Indigenous, and people of color, I would like to offer my opinions about the resolutions being considered by the county legislature on 7/14/2020.

Resolution No. P/276/20, RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT, CALLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR is without a doubt a necessary statement, but needs more action. The organization Troy 4 Black Lives has laid out some actionable demands:

-COPS STOP KILLING US & OUR CHILDREN

-A newly formed civilian review board with a) subpoena power and b) representation of no less than 60% of people most impacted by violence and police violence (BIPOC at the intersection of LGBTQIA, Young People, People with disabilities, Our formerly incarcerated peoples.)

-A full and impartial investigation of every instance of use of deadly force by a police officer, whether or not it results in a death (this includes injury) and whether or not the victim is alleged to have been armed. Where there is evidence of abuse, a vigorous grand jury presentation and prosecution.

-The disentanglement of county government with ICE. And making Troy a Sanctuary City.

-The appointment of the Attorney General (by Executive Order or legislation) as an independent investigator and prosecutor in all cases of the use of deadly force by a police officer, whether or not the victim is alleged to have been armed, and whether or not the victim survives.

-The exploration and creation of diversion programs away from criminal justice involvement to community-based treatment alternatives, especially for youth, the mentally ill, and in cases involving drugs or substance abuse and sex work, with a view to reducing unnecessary incarceration which disproportionately impacts economically exploited communities and specifically Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Re: Resolution No. P/242/20 RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TROY POLICE AND THE RENSSELAER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 7TH "TROY RALLY FOR BLACK LIVES" IN DOWNTOWN TROY feels especially tone deaf and ignorant (willfully or otherwise) not only of the message of the protestors, but to the millions of voices calling for change across the country and around the world. If it is the legislature's intent to "recognize those organizations that perform their duties in an exemplary fashion when special circumstances arise," then I once again feel you should look to Troy 4 Black Lives, the primary organizers of the event, for this commendation, for it was this organization that organized and enacted the peaceful protest. What the Troy police department did do, was create a tense and fearful environment in the city in the week leading up to the rally by advising businesses to board up.

Resolution No. G/272/20 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH AVERILL PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A DEPUTY SHERIFF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITION – OFFICE OF THE RENSSELAER COUNTY SHERIFF also feels ignorant (willfully or otherwise) of our current situation. Police officers are now recognized as an inappropriate and often dangerous addition in communities and schools, and woefully untrained and unqualified to, "have day-to-day contact with students, faculty and parents in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment within the school; and to be available for students to assist in defusing and solving problems before they become a detriment to the learning environment and the health, safety and welfare of the students and faculty of the district...". I would again point you in the direction of Troy 4 Black Lives for a discussion on how to better spend the \$92,500 allocated for this position.

Legislators, this is the first time in my life that I've read and commented on the resolutions being considered by my county government. It won't be the last. I recently attended my first city hall meeting and offered my voice and opinions on the actions (or inactions) of my city government. I am not the only one who is now paying closer attention, and I would imagine that I am not the only one who would stand up and admit that it was wrong to not be more involved; that it was wrong to simply hope my elected officials would do the right thing. I urge you to take a similar approach and ask yourselves if you are willing to make some changes within yourselves and within our community. I believe many, many more voters are paying attention now, and are ready to keep pushing for change in our county.

I will say, once again, in closing, that I believe it is imperative that the legislature reaches out to and works with Troy 4 Black Lives moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bartels

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Charette, Jessica

From: Rebecca Rothstein <rothstein.rebecca@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution36

Hello County Legislators,

My name is Betty Rothstein, and I am a resident of Troy, NY in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of resolution 36 and in support of Black Lives Matter movement.

I am a white resident, and I grew up in Troy with black neighbors, black classmates, black friends, and black partners. Living in Rensselaer County means being in community with black community. How we treat black community as a whole is indicative of our collective self-respect, and we have a responsibility to be accountable on the ways we participate in systemic oppression (racism, poverty, misogyny, and queerphobia) and how we challenge and dismantle systemic oppression to create a safer community. I was so proud that 11,000 people showed up to the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter following the murder of George Floyd. Rensselaer County has its own racist history of extrajudicial killings of black residents, including Edson Thevenin, and the attempted murder of Dahmeek McDonald, by white police, all of whom grew up right here in our community. The racist participation of Rensselaer county in the 287g Agreement is allowing police to target and antagonize our immigrant community, and tear families apart. The question of how white people in positions of political power treat our black, indigenous and immigrant community of color should be wielded back on to us: how would Carmella Mantello like to have her child murdered in the street by a police? How would Sheriff Russo like to be kidnapped from his car, thrown in jail, and forcibly sent to Italy? What steps can we ensure to build safety where there is no double standard of treatment and blatant abuse based on skin color and language spoken.

I support resolution 36 but I will add this ain't nearly enough. It is necessary, by any means, to continue fighting for justice for black community. I am honored to be called in by Troy 4 Black Lives to support black community. I am dismayed to hear that the Mayor of Rensselaer, who is Chairman of the Legislative Committee, took it upon himself to pressure and threaten the other legislators who signed onto the resolution. It is not your place Mr. Chairman. I am also so disappointed that the legislators who signed have been giving in to political pressure instead of listening and supporting black community.

Vote in favor of black community. Do what black community asks. That is the very least you can do, if you are committed to anti-racist work, if you are committed to building a safer community in Rensselaer County. End the 287g Agreement. Hold killer cops accountable. Start a civilian review board in Troy for police accountability, one that has the power to hold police accountable.

With respect,
Betty Rothstein

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ivana Zivkovic <ivanabreads@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Comment to the Legislator

County Legislators,

My name is Ivana Zivkovic and I live and work in Latham. I am writing in support of resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is an opportunity to acknowledge and name the realities of racism and violence against Black family, friends, and neighbors. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the work that still needs to be done and continue to take steps in that direction. We are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what next steps should look like. We need to listen.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ivana Zivkovic

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Charette, Jessica

From: Francis Magai <francis.magai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Francis Magai, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary first step in acknowledging the reality of racism against the Black members of our county. But it can not be the only step - much more work is needed.

Sincerely,
Francis Magai
221 10th St.
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sylva Menard <sylvamenard@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: To Rensselaer County Legislators

County Legislators,

My name is Sylva Menard, and I live in the city of Troy, in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is by all means a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country.

By proposing three pro-police resolutions, I find it abundantly clear that the legislators are aligning themselves with those who march with white robes and nooses, promoting modern Jim Crow and the white-power white supremacists.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

I support those who initially supported this resolution and who have been pressured by the others in power to remove their support. You should know that you have the support of your white neighbors in Troy.

I hope that you will take this vote seriously, for justice and freedom for ALL,

Sylva Menard

--
Sylva Menard
2168 5th Ave, Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Deborah Byers <deborahbyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia; Charette, Jessica
Cc: Bob Blackmon; Barbara Nelson
Subject: Resolution

Good afternoon -

I am in support of the tenor of the Black Lives Matter resolution that is to come before the Legislature this evening.

I realize my response is a bit late, but I have some suggested amendments.

1. In the first RESOLVED: strike " and at a minimum," and replace it with " and prohibits" Also, add a period after the word "causes" at the end of that paragraph and add the sentence :To help achieve this, the Legislature in consultation with affected community leaders, shall establish a task force by September 15 to identify and address specific issues and possible remedies.

2. In the 2nd RESOLVED: after "law" in 4th line, replace ; with . Add "To help achieve this, the Legislature commits to a course of study about systemic racism and further commits to make this study a community-wide activity."

3. Add another RESOLVED: Be it further RESOLVED: The products of the aforementioned activities shall become a basis for creating a just system and remedies for specific harms caused by current and previous injustice.

4. I think you want to sent embossed, not engrossed copies.

Sincerely, and with gratitude for all of the work you do for the community,
Deborah Byers
2 Belle Avenue
Troy

Administrator - Howard & Bush Foundation, Leadership Team Chair - Christ Church United Methodist - Troy

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Charette, Jessica

From: MacGilfrey, Cheyenne
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: FW: Resolution calling for racial justice/Black Lives Matter

From: Geri Pomerantz [<mailto:gpomerantz60@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Peter, Chuck; Loveridge, Robert; Bendett, Scott
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Resolution calling for racial justice/Black Lives Matter

Dear Legislators: I urge you to vote in support of the Resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for racial justice for Black People and People of Color, being introduced this evening. Passage of this resolution is but a baby step toward racial justice, but an important first step for this legislative body.

I live in the Town of Schodack (with an East Greenbush address).

Thank you.

--
Geri Pomerantz
gpomerantz60@gmail.com
2 Waters Road
East Greenbush NY 12061

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Charette, Jessica

From: Tankersley, Brandon P <btankersley@albany.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:56 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: County Resolutions

County Legislators,

My name is Brandon Tankersley and I live in Troy, New York. I support Resolution 36 as a step towards recognizing the ongoing injustice and violence dealt to the Black residents in this county and nation. We are honored that groups like Troy 4 Black Lives are providing leadership in our community as we work for racial justice, and I hope that we will take the requisite time to fully listen and begin taking steps towards real change.

In addition to passing Resolution 36, the county must begin addressing the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives, including the creation of a civilian review board with subpoena power with representation of no less than 60% of people most impacted by violence and police violence, a full and impartial investigation of every instance of use of deadly force by a police officer, the diversion of funds from policing and criminal justice to programs that foster community-based alternatives addressing youth, mental health, and substance abuse, with the goal of reducing incarceration which disproportionately impacts economically exploited communities and People of Color.

A vote against this resolution is a vote against basic humanity, and a vote to maintain an unequal community in which under-resourced and over-policed members face a very different reality than those who make up this body.

Thank you for your time.

Brandon Tankersley
Instructor, English Department
University at Albany, SUNY
btankersley@albany.edu

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Charette, Jessica

From: Maggie Mang <mmang4207@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of BLM Resolution

Dear County Legislators,

I hope that this email finds you well. My name is Maggie Mang and I live at 156 4th Ave in Troy, NY, in Rensselaer County. I am writing to express my steadfast support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I would like to begin by stating that the passing of a resolution is an important, but ultimately insufficient as a stand-alone, step towards supporting the Black Lives Matter movement not just in words, but in *concrete action*. This country was built from slavery, and its continuing legacies of white supremacy and anti-Blackness are seen in the too many examples of racialized violence and injustice. Recent names and examples of this violence that have gained national media traction (George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery) and the names that have not gained as much attention (Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Nina Pop, and Sean Reed, among too many others), showcase that continuing structural racism is still, and has always been, a problem in this country.

Rensselaer County is not immune from this. In this county, we have seen Black people, including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald, harmed and killed at the hands of police; immigrants of color have been ripped apart and cruelly separated from their family; and we do not see any Black representatives of this community. These examples are but a small selection that we have a long way to go if we are to end racialized injustice. We are honored that grassroots organizations, such as Troy 4 Black Lives, have stepped up to outline next steps in an effort to end this racialized racism. We need to listen.

I have lived in Troy for almost a year, now, and I can earnestly say that the closest that I felt to my neighbors and the overarching community was during the protest in support of Black Lives Matter. This protest drew over 11,000 people and showcased the diversity of people who live here and who are deeply committed to issues of justice. As these numbers help to indicate, there are many of us who will not stand by inaction when there is so much injustice that needs to be remedied. I remain especially galvanized by the efforts of grassroots, Black-led organizations that help to mobilize us to a more inclusive and just city.

Which is why I was so dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to threaten and, quite frankly, bully other legislators out of support for this resolution. This act of outright intimidation and strongarming is not your place, Mr. Chairman. Additionally, I was further dismayed that legislators had removed their names from their initial support. This does not reflect the interests of the very constituents who voted for you.

Thus, to vote against this resolution is to vote against the mere recognition that the deaths of the aforementioned Black people directly stems from rampant white supremacy and anti-Black racism that exists in this country. To vote against this resolution is to deny that racism plays an instrumental role in keeping those in power in power, and subjugating those, disproportionately Black, to early death, diminished life returns, and poor living conditions and health. To vote against this resolution is to actively turn away from the knowledge of what those in support of the Black Lives Matter have, for so long, been trying to show and change. I repeat: to vote against this resolution is to *deliberately* and *actively* turn away from justice.

I thank you for your time in reading this, and urge you to take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Best regards,
Maggie

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sarah McFadden <sarah.e.mcfadden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:51 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Public Comment for July 14, 2020 Meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature, RE: Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter

To the Rensselaer County Legislators:

My name is Sarah McFadden, and I live in the Town of Brunswick in Rensselaer County. I'm writing to express my support of Resolution 36 and more importantly, my support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

It is impossible to ignore the daily racism, injustice, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color in this country. Even the most superficial survey of American history and current events reveals that racism, injustice, and violence do not so much permeate our society as they do define its essential machinery. This includes Rensselaer County, where Black people like Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald are killed and harmed by police brutality. This includes Rensselaer County, where local authorities aid ICE in their own brand of destruction: the senseless and inhumane separation of immigrants of color from their families. This includes Rensselaer County, where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I moved to Brunswick over five years ago to be closer to my work as a computer instructor. The dearth of reliable internet connections in Rensselaer County (and the means to use them) are one of the many ways that members of this community are excluded from full participation in the institutions that are meant to serve them. I never stop thinking about what all of our lives would be like if local leadership invested in libraries, schools, and vital community services, instead of funding over-policing of Black communities and outsized displays of force like what we saw in response to the Troy Rally for Black Lives. I am grateful for the leadership of groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice and stronger local communities, and who have already outlined a way that our communities can move forward together. My neighbors make me proud to call this county home, and they inspire me to help make it better by holding myself accountable for the things I have the power to change. I wonder if this legislative body shares my sense of responsibility.

The United States was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, and those dual legacies are ours to contend with, from their effects across countless laws and institutions to their impact on the daily lives of our BIPOC neighbors. I urge you, in your capacity as elected representatives with a duty to the people of this county, to heed the message of the 11,000 people who gathered outside your walls last month to claim their own responsibilities to each other, and to demand change from the officials that serve them. A body with the decision-making power and authority of the Rensselaer County Legislature should avail itself of the thoughtfulness necessary to hold itself accountable to the people it serves. I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves, and I hope that it serves as the springboard for further action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for continuing to take social distancing measures to keep the community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential that this body affirms and protects the lives of all county residents, and not just the white ones.

Sarah McFadden
Brunswick, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sabra Sanwal <sabra.sanwal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia; Sabra Sanwal
Subject: Resolution 36

Dear Ms. Charette, please pass my message below on to the County Legislators:

Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Sabra Sanwal and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we ALL still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps might be. We just need to listen.

Living in South Troy I see the evidence of systemic racism every single day. I see economic disadvantage, educational disadvantage, social disadvantage, political and legal disadvantage, all of which have their roots in systemic racism. You may feel that you are not responsible, that you did not make this happen, that those who are disadvantaged should take it upon themselves to lift themselves up; but I say to you, that you cannot even imagine the power and oppression of racism and disadvantage. As you fail to understand, and you become the problem, and you become responsible for continuing a systemic situation that is, at the very least un-American.

To be American means to take responsibility. That is why you ran for Office, and that is why you were elected. Please accept the responsibility that you were elected to, and please help this one corner of a great nation to set an example of how America can move through and past what is our greatest tragedy.

A vote FOR this resolution is a vote for responsibility, for acceptance of what is painful and obvious, and a statement that we can imagine a better future, where we all work to end the historic marginalization and brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color.

A vote FOR this resolution is a clear statement that you believe in the America of civil liberties, of human rights, and of voting rights.

A vote FOR this resolution is a clear statement that you believe all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law.

I ask you to vote FOR this resolution, and to thereby position Rensselaer County as a leader and as an example of how great America can be.

Sabra Sanwal

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Charette, Jessica

From: David Bissember <david.bissember@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comments for 7.14 County Legislature Meeting
Attachments: 2020-07-14 Letter to Rensselaer County Legislature in Support of Resolution 36.pdf

County Legislators,

My name is David Bissember and I live in the City of Troy in Rensselaer County. I write to you today in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened by our community in Troy coming together in early June to demonstrate what anti-racism looks like and to demand change in our country. Dedicated organizers from our community worked tirelessly in orchestrating a Black-led, family-friendly, multi-racial, interfaith and intergenerational movement with 11,000 people assembling in our City to speak out against racism and injustice. As a West Indian-American, of Indo-Caribbean and Afro-Caribbean descent, I thank the sponsors of this resolution for holding space for Black, Indigenous, and people of color like me, with the introduction of this symbolic resolution. I also stand in solidarity of the Guyanese community member who was recently harmed in Schenectady by a Schenectady Police Officer. This is just the latest in a long history of violence. We have seen similar harms in Rensselaer County and I raise this fact to remind our County Legislators that there is much more work needed to be done to ameliorate our country's long and ugly history of systemic racism.

As a former Troy City Councilmember, I was the prime-sponsor of the Families and Communities Together Act, better known as Troy's Sanctuary City Resolution. This resolution was submitted in response to the injustice and harm we witnessed in our City, following decisions by the Rensselaer County's Sheriff's Department to establish a formal relationship, known as the 287(g) agreement, with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency which served to deputize county officers to serve as federal ICE agents. Indeed, we have seen immigrants of color in our own neighborhoods be separated from their children and families as a result of this county policy. This relationship with ICE does not reflect the values of New York State nor does it represent my values as a New Yorker.

I am honored to support the efforts of Black-led community organizations like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities.

I once again thank the sponsors for holding space in support of Black lives and the lives of our multi-racial community. We have a responsibility to our neighbors. A vote in favor of Resolution 36 is a vote acknowledging that all of us deserve, and demand, equal treatment under the law.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Bissember

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County Legislators,

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I am honored to support the efforts of Black-led community organizations like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities.

I once again thank the sponsors for holding space in support of Black lives and the lives of our multi-racial community. We have a responsibility to our neighbors. A vote in favor of Resolution 36 is a vote acknowledging that all of us deserve, and demand, equal treatment under the law.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Bissember

Charette, Jessica

From: Victoriamarie265 <vmjacobie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: VOTE NO TO DEFUNDING THE POLICE

PLEASE vote no to defunding our police.

I agree that funding is needed for other departments in our county, such as substance abuse, mental health and domestic violence. That does not mean we must take funding away from the police. Police are in need of funding now more than ever. Police officers will ALWAYS encounter mental illness, substance abuse and violence. Why not better equip them with more training more frequently so they are constantly learning new and better techniques to handle and de-escalate situations that they face on a daily basis?

They are in desperate need of staffing. For example, Troy has 8 officers city wide during any given shift. Does that not put into perspective how much they need new hires? New hires who are properly trained, properly psychologically evaluated, and equipped with the proper tools and knowledge they need to remain safe and keep their city safe? New de-escalation techniques are constantly being discovered by experts that the officers could benefit from, but without enough funding, these resources are not available to them.

We want to prevent badges from getting in the hands of bullies and evil people, right? That means more thorough background and psychological investigations and evaluations. That means no more turning a blind eye to nepotism. That means more funding.

We want our police to do a better job than they already are, right? When we want someone to excel, we don't take away from them. We give them opportunity, funding, resources, and time to improve. If a child is failing their math class, do we take away their text book and expect them to do better on the next test? No. We give them a tutor. We give them extra class hours. We give them practice tests. We provide any and all resources that we can to help that child succeed.

I certainly agree there is room for improvement. Every job in America has room for improvement and it just so happens that the police are under the highest scrutiny right now because of the actions of a few. Let's not take away from these heroes who lay their lives down on the line for strangers of every color, every gender, every nationality, every single day without hesitation. Let's not take away their ability to do their job and end up being a lawless, uncivilized, and unaccountable society.

I do not want my city to end up like New York City. Crime is at an all time high, and that is directly correlated to the defunding of the police department by an astronomical amount. Defunding the police does not protect ANY lives. Criminals will run rampant (more so than now). Wanting to help criminals even a little bit is tyranny and it is disrespectful to all victims of crime, no matter what race. Let's not forget who we should be defending. I'll give you a hint, the answer is NOT criminals.

VOTE NO TO DEFUNDING THE POLICE.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Charette, Jessica

From: Marz Albarran <Marz.A27@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Mars Albarran, and I live in Averill Park in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is by all means a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country.

This resolution is a step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives and All of Us that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. You just need to listen.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mars Albarran

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Charette, Jessica

From: Rhea Drysdale <rhea@outspokenmedia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: ATTN: Support for Resolution 36

Dear County Legislators,

First, thank you to legislators Grimm, Doran and Fleming for your support of Resolution 36. The following is addressed to the rest of the legislature.

My name is Rhea Drysdale and I am a resident of Troy, NY living near Frear Park in Rensselaer County.

This means I live "up the hill" from North Central and benefit as a privileged white person from redlining. ([Link](#)) I've attached a link to maps demonstrating redlining in Albany, Schenectady and Troy from nearly a century ago and we can see how the racial and economic division between areas persists today.

I continue to benefit from systematic racism and that sickens me, so I will continue to work tirelessly to right the wrongs done to Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized people.

I am writing to you today in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Notice that I said "movement," not group.

Not antifa. Not paid Marxists. Not savages and critters. Not people dividing America who just need to get a job.

If you believe that is what Black Lives Matter is then you have closed your mind, your eyes and your ears to the people you represent and serve.

Black Lives Matter is a movement of people in this country who are standing up for the basic premise that all lives cannot matter until Black lives are treated with the same respect and basic human rights as others.

That this is even a controversial statement-- Black Lives Matter--is confusing and too painful for many to fight for, most notably the very individuals repressed, silenced, incarcerated, injured, and killed by the system and people who refuse to see the impact of their decisions or simply don't care.

I am writing today, because I am now aware of legislative bodies like this one that do not represent the interests of its residents fairly.

Resolution 36 in support of Black Lives Matter has lost names who readily signed on to support an "atta boy" resolution for the Troy Police Department's handling of the Troy Rally 4 Black Lives.

A police department who spread rumors about riots and incited fear for a week ahead of the rally.

A police department who militarized the City of Troy and failed to protect protestors from vehicles though fortunately no one was run over that day while 60 other protests across the country have been driven into intentionally.

I blocked the streets. A mother of two. A business owner. A white woman. I stood in solidarity with Black bodies and other volunteers and directed traffic away from the protestors after police vehicles moved on before the crowds and families had fully advanced to the next street.

You don't know this, because you weren't there.

A police department that arrested white supremacists only after protestors identified, intervened and handed them to the police.

A police department who covered up the murder of Edson Thevenin and honors his killer today. An officer who had four disciplinary charges recommended including false testimony and unnecessary use of deadly force.

An officer who is being honored today by representatives Chairperson Stammel and legislatures Hoffman, Loveridge, Herrington, Bayly, Bendett, Casale, Fiacco, Grant, Patire, Peter, Tesman, Wysocki, Burns, Sullivan-Teta, and Weaver.

And, yet, no mention of this officer's misconduct, false testimony or murder is mentioned in the two page memoriam.

A police department that demands unity in their silence and refused to take a knee with the community they serve.

Resolution 36 is necessary while other resolutions presented today are an insult to the people you serve. This work must continue, because of the actions taken by this legislature leading up and during today's meeting.

Troy 4 Black Lives, TRICITYUNITE, Urban Grief, Community Matters, AO Rising, and All of Us along with MANY other organizations and individuals in the area are working tirelessly for racial justice right here in our local communities. Today I urge you to listen to Troy 4 Black Lives who has previously outlined steps that need to be taken by Rensselaer County, the Troy Police Department, Mayor Madden and the City of Troy.

This is not a moment, it is a movement. Where will you sit in the history books? In all actuality your names won't be read. You will continue to be a small voice in a small area, but you have the potential to lead nationally in how you handle your response. You can continue to further the status quo or be brave and face whatever fears and personal agendas stop you from acting in the best interest of your most marginalized residents.

That is not leadership, it is cowardice and self-preservation.

We need your voice and your actions. Please listen to your community, not those with the loudest municipal, economic and legislative bullhorns.

Vote in the best interest of humanity. All humans. Especially those with the smallest voice right now—Black lives who do matter. Black lives who need your vote today. Black lives who will know you have forgotten them and intentionally harmed them if you choose to vote against the simple statement that their lives matter.

Thank you,
Rhea Drysdale

--

Rhea Drysdale
Chief Executive Officer

rhea@outspokenmedia.com

outspokenmedia.com



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Charette, Jessica

From: Meagan Oswald <mloswald34@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:17 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Voting NO to defunding the police

I vote NO to Defunding the police!

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Charette, Jessica

From: Robert Ashe <rashe11@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: letter

July 14, 2020

Dear Legislator's Grimm, Doran and Fleming,

In regards to P/276/20

I would like to say first and foremost that Black Lives do Matter, but I cannot support a movement that is anti-police.

I also think this resolution is offensive to myself and other Law Enforcement Officers.

Your 2nd Whereas says people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. This statement is offensive to any police officer and to the public that we have sworn to protect. Our mission to protect and serve ALL and we should not all be judged based on the action of others. Keep in mind as I have that there are bad apples in every profession including politics.

I commend and thank your other three members of your caucus that have requested to be removed as sponsors and ask that they voice their reason why they do not sponsor this bill. I am sure the public is eager to hear.

Sincerely,
Bob Ashe

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Charette, Jessica

From: Danielle Sanzone <daniellesnews@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Support of Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Danielle Sanzone, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

was part of the 11,000-strong BLM rally in the city of Troy. It was the first time I had ever participated in a protest. I was worried about COVID but also felt - as did thousands of others - that this was something I had to do.

My boyfriend of more than 10 years drove me down to the Approach on 8th and I was already in awe by the dozens I saw walking down Congress, making their way to the rally. Then seeing people walk from across the river.

The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

There is still much to do, as we see with another example of a police officer using his knee on a man's neck in Schenectady so soon after these rallies.

To vote against this resolution is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you,

Danielle Sanzone
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Melissa Bromley <melbroms@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Statement for Today's Rensselaer County Legislature meeting

Dear Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Melissa Bromley and I live in Troy. I recently learned of the following resolutions on the agenda for tonight's meeting:

- RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT, CALLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR
- RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TROY POLICE AND THE RENSSELAER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR THEIR PREPARATION AND RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 7TH "TROY RALLY FOR BLACK LIVES" IN DOWNTOWN TROY
- RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT AT THE BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY IN TROY NY
- RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM OF SERGEANT RANDALL FRENCH

Letters are due today at 3PM so I'm compelled to write quickly, but in response to each of the above listed resolutions:

- It's my understanding that the resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement was vehemently opposed by County Republicans. Republican leaders, I'm confident you do not consider yourselves racist. Why then would you feel defensive about a call for racial justice for Black people? Please consider your responsibility to your Black constituents and all your constituents of color.
- Both the resolution acknowledging the County Sheriff's office and the one acknowledging the Troy Police in their participation of the June 7 "Troy Rally for Black Lives" point to your lack of acknowledgement of the community leadership who organized the event. Where is your recognition of Troy's Black community leadership in keeping the demonstrations peaceful? Where is your acknowledgement of these citizens you represent as County officials?
- Your resolution in memoriam of Sergeant French is aggressive in timing. Perhaps I'm missing something, but haven't you met twice since his untimely passing? Why not honor him in a previous meeting? For politicians to use someone's death for their own purposes is abhorrent. I share in the heartbreak of the French and Thevenin families and hope the timing of this resolution does not add to their pain.

Sincerely,
Melissa Bromley
Troy, NY

Charette, Jessica

From: Avery Fortin <amy.r.fortin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter Resolution

County Legislators,

My name is Amy Fortin, and I live in Lansingburgh. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. I was one of the 11,000 people who marched in Troy weeks ago in support of Black Lives Matter and against police brutality.

I am angered and dismayed to learn that the Chairman has pressured and threatened other legislators who had signed onto this resolution. We live in a democracy, and no one person can take away the voice of the people. I am also angered to learn that some of the initial signatories bowed to the pressure of the Chairman and removed their names. To do so does not reflect working in the best interests of the people who elected you.

I hope you will take this vote, and the voices of your constituents, seriously and with the justice that it deserves.

Thank you for your time
Amy Fortin
1 Diack Pl, Troy, NY 12182

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Charette, Jessica

From: we3inbrunswick@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Vote NO to defunding police

It is a sad day to see that Police are being vilified and disrespected (for the actions of a few), while people that choose to disregard the law are being lifted up. Defunding Police and not giving them the training and tools they need to do their jobs safely to protect and serve the community will just increase crime and put theirs and everyone else's lives in danger. The message being sent to Criminals right now is that they are more protected and have more rights than the victims and the police. This is disgusting!!

Just remember, when you or your family are in danger or have been legally wronged, who do you call, the Police. They will come and put themselves in harms way when you and yours without hesitation. This should not be taken lightly. Police are human to and have families that, at the end of the day they want to go home to. They are mothers, fathers, sons and daughters etc and are dedicated to uphold the law and protect and serve, so let's not forget that they are the good guys not the criminals. The Police and victims should come before the bad guys. Vote NO to defunding the Police!!

Pam Harbour

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Charette, Jessica

From: Meghan Fitzgerald <meggieb.fitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support Resolution 36 in support of Black Lives Matter

County Legislatures,

My name is Meg Fitzgerald, I am a resident of Troy and have lived in Rensselaer County my whole life. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of Black Lives Matter.

I was blown away by the 11,000 person turn-out at the Troy Black Lives Matter demonstration, and moved by my home-town's response to systemic injustice. The tragic murder of George Floyd has brought to light the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Racism and white supremacy permeate every facet of society, including here in Rensselaer County. Black people have been killed and harmed by Troy police, including Edson Thevenin and Darneek McDonald. We have also seen immigrants of color ripped from their families. I've attended Troy City Council meetings and was shocked at how our local representatives do not reflect the diversity of the community that I know in love. Please consider supporting Resolution 36 for ALL of Troy. It is a first step on a long way to undoing the harm perpetuated by police violence and white supremacy within our community.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for considering what I have to say.

Sincerely,

Meghan Fitzgerald

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Charette, Jessica

From: gwendolyn grant <bentleygng@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Support for Black Lives matters resolution

I Gwendolyn Grant am in support of the Black Lives Matters Resolution.I am in favor of the passing of the RESOLUTION.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Charette, Jessica

From: KD McTeigue <mcteiguekd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Community Comments

Hello,

My name is KD McTeigue, I'm a resident of Albany, NY with strong ties to Troy as a graduate of Russell Sage College.

I am writing today to offer my support for the resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. The simple statement of "Black Lives Matter" is a wholly insufficient one coming from a body of government that continues to wield oppressive measures against their most vulnerable populations, yet I support the necessary measure for the County to publicly acknowledge this fact. As you move forward in taking action, I refer you to the incredible work laid out by Troy 4 Black Lives (previously known as Justice 4 Dahmeek) who have clearly articulated their demands that must be met in order to improve their quality of life.

It is incredibly unfortunate to learn that Chairman Michael Stammel reportedly abused his authority by pressuring legislators who initially signed onto this resolution to revoke their support. Plenty can be said on the sheer immorality of this, but I will let others do that and instead simply state to the Chairman and those who removed their names from the resolution, that your cowardice has been seen, documented, and will be remembered when it comes time for your reelection.

I also write to whole-heartedly condemn the other resolutions that offer undue congratulations to Troy PD for their "preparation" preceding the historic Troy Rally for Black Lives where 11,000 people came together to affirm Black life and rise up against police brutality. It is well-known in our community that it was members of Troy PD who went around in the days leading up to the rally, warning businesses to board up their windows in anticipation of a wave of destruction that never came. When there WERE possibilities of violence at the rally in the form of illegally armed white supremacist Proud Boys skulking around, it was the folks from the community working with T4BL/J4D who took community safety upon themselves who identified the threat. Troy PD was too busy handing out slices of pizza to city council members to notice. I implore you to reconsider and understand how profoundly tone deaf and disrespectful it would be to pass this resolution. If you'd like to extend thanks and appreciation for the public safety success of the rally, then give it where it is deserved: **to the community leaders of Troy 4 Black Lives who actually did the work of public safety.**

Speaking of tone deaf, I present to you the resolution to honor the murderer of Edson Thevenin. Again, I will let others who have closer ties to the residential community of Troy and Edson's family speak to the profound disrespect of this resolution, and instead simply state this: Rensselaer County has already clearly demonstrated that in the opinion of its leaders, Edson Thevenin's life did not matter. **For what reasons other than white supremacy and a complete disregard for the community you represent, would you choose to demonstrate that the life of the man who murdered Edson Thevenin and openly lied about it somehow matters MORE?**

With only the respect that is due and nothing else,
KD McTeigue

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Charette, Jessica

From: Noelle Dommasch <jkmno@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: BLACK LIVES MATTER IN TROY

My County Legislators,

Hello, I hope this email finds you all well and in good health. My name is Noelle Dommasch and I am a Troy city resident, in Rensselaer County and you were elected to represent myself and my neighbors. With this responsibility bestowed upon you by your constituents, comes the task of protecting and serving those of us who live here. I am writing to remind you that anything other than full support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter movement will be failing your community and your responsibility to your voters.

Troy is a diverse, progressive and open-minded city. Troy is vibrant, loving and well informed. Troy is this way because of the communities that live here and we believe that Black Lives Matter. You will NOT misrepresent us by callously ignoring the police brutality that plagues our people and grossly disrespect us by awarding the militaristic, resource-wasting, bloated and racist police department of Troy while ignoring the HUNDREDS of complaints against this corrupt department. How dare you believe you can act in direct opposition of what your city and county wants because you hold onto outdated and uninformed opinions.

We are blessed in this community to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives to help guide us to a better future. Why have you not engaged them and the work they are already doing? Our locals are doing what they need to do- why are not listening?

One reason our wants and needs are being ignored may be the bullying the Chairman seems to think is appropriate for an elected official? Perhaps you all need reminding, that is not how democracy works and as disgusting as the Chairman's behavior is- I question the dignity and honor of the other legislators that allowed themselves to be bullied enough to remove their signatures - we see you. We see how quickly you have folded, we see the cowardice and we are wholly unimpressed. You made us promises, you told us you cared about our communities, our children and our home. How can you say you've fulfilled your duties when you are voting against our citizens having equal rights? How can you look at yourselves in the mirror knowing you are trying to erase the experience of Trojans all over this city?

Do the right thing Legislators. It is your responsibility to be on the right side of history, acknowledge the suffering of your residents and make a stand to improve our city for EVERYONE.

Thank you for your consideration. See you tonight.

Noelle

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Charette, Jessica

From: Quentin Curtis <q.curtis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution P/36

To whom it may concern my name is Quentin Curtis and I am a resident of Poestenkill NY and I am asking that Resolution P/36 be passed by the Rensselaer County legislature. In the past days, weeks, months and years I have heard Black Lives Matter Blue Lives Matter and all lives matter I agree with all three statements but with that said African Americans are being stopped and sometimes killed because of no other reason than they have different skin color. This is higher than most any other race here in the United States. Most African Americans knows what it is like to be stopped because they look suspicious or acting strangely but you can have a Caucasian person doing the same thing as that African American and they are not stopped this is wrong. All races should be treated the same way and with the same respect. I have not always lived in Rensselaer County I grew up in Arbor Hill in Albany NY so I have seen the difference on how African Americans are treated and how Caucasian people are treated. It is time that we start changing on how we treat people in the African American community.

Sincerely Yours
Quentin Curtis

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Charette, Jessica

From: Kylie Spinelli <kpkspinelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia

County Legislators,

My name is Kylie Spinelli, and I live in the city/town of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I am a young professional who works and resides in Troy, NY. I have lived a large portion of my life in the Capital Region, including in Rensselaer County. It breaks my heart that we need to beg our representatives to actually represent us, the people, and advocate for our rights. The good of the people you represent should always be your first priority. Resolution 36 is a step in the right direction, and a good start to overcoming the issues that our communities have faced for far too long.

I was one of the 11,000 people that came out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, including my city, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you,

Kylie Spinelli

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Charette, Jessica

From: Van Tran Nguyen <vnnguyen318@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: A Vote for Black Lives

County Legislators,

My name is Vanessa Nguyen, and I live in downtown Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen. While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is, by all It is indeed a basic necessary action that has been ignored long enough by the council.

The utter disregard from the council in regards to Resolution 36 is an egregious and blatant act of racism. As a member of this county, I feel that its leaders are way more concerned about keeping a fascist status quo than do anything to bring equity and change to Rensselaer county.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration,
Vanessa Nguyen

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Charette, Jessica

From: Zhenelle Fish <zhenelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment in support of Resolution No. P/276/20

Dear Chairman Stammel and members of the County Legislature:

My name is Zhenelle Fish and I am a resident of District 2 in the city of Rensselaer, New York. I have lived in Rensselaer County for almost 20 years. I am writing to you to express my support for Resolution No. P/276/20 and the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as my disappointment with your conduct, Chairman, and the legislators who fell in step with your blatant perpetuation of racist ideas.

By centering the role, not to mention feelings, of law enforcement with your Resolutions in this historic moment--instead of the lives and demands of Black members of our community--you have exposed the awful truth about our county and the ugliness of its longstanding and well-protected racism. By choosing this moment to honor the life of a white police officer, while refusing the call of the movement seeking justice for the Black father he killed, you confirm the legislature's desire to uphold the status quo, which includes the ongoing mistreatment and murder of Black people in Rensselaer county based solely on the color of their skin.

The system of policing and the reality of mass incarceration is rooted in the enslavement of Black people. This is not a history that can be argued with. Your actions today will mark another attempt by self-interested white politicians to suppress the voices of those who demand an end to police brutality and the ongoing racism pervasive in our county's judicial system.

Author, historian and scholar Ibram X. Kendi writes, "The principal function of racist ideas in American history has been the suppression of resistance to racial discrimination and its resulting racial disparities. The beneficiaries of slavery, segregation, and mass incarceration have produced racist ideas of Black people being best suited for or deserving of the confines of slavery, segregation, or the jail cell. Consumers of these racist ideas have been led to believe there is something wrong with Black people, and not the policies that have enslaved, oppressed, and confined so many Black people..."

When you truly believe that the racial groups are equal, then you also believe that racial disparities must be the result of racial discrimination."

If you believed this, all of you, then you would see the importance of solidarity with your Black constituents, just the same way you see it so clearly for your law enforcers. You would do everything in your power every single day to put an end to racial discrimination at all levels of engagement, in your personal, professional, and political lives... But I fear you have too much at stake to do that, as beneficiaries of slavery, segregation, and mass incarceration.

No other logic can explain your actions today. You have too much to gain from white supremacy to ever confront it, let alone dismantle it.

In gratitude to legislators Grimm, Doran, and Fleming for persisting nonetheless,

Zhenelle Fish
27 Van Allen Way
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Charette, Jessica

From: Staniszewski, Mary Anne <stanim@rpi.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Rensselaer County Legislature Letter for Today's Meeting, 7-14-20 re Resolution 36 from M.A. Staniszewski
Attachments: Staniszewski Letter to Rensselaer Country Legislature_Resolution 36_7-14-20.pdf

Jessica L. Charette, ccing: Peter Grimm and Cindy Doran,

See attached my letter to the Rensselaer County Legislature for today's meeting, 7-14-20.
The subject of my letter is Resolution 36.

Sincerely,
Mary Anne Staniszewski
Averill Park, New York

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July 14, 2020

EMAILED TO: Jessica L. Charette, jcharette@rensco.com
 CC: Peter Grimm, pggrimm@rensco.com and Cindy Doran, cdoran@rensco.com
 FROM: Mary Anne Staniszewski, Averill Park, N.Y.

RE: Resolution 36

Dear Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Mary Anne Staniszewski, and I live in Averill Park. I am a longtime resident of Rensselaer County and I am writing in strong support of Resolution 36 and of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

As you know, Resolution 36 is a resolution stating that the Rensselaer County Legislature:

“will help... recognize ...that Black, indigenous and all people of color (BICOP) deserve equal protection under the law; and ... demand a solution for the terrible wrongs done so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability and gender identity or sexual orientation, we may become a nation ‘indivisible,’ with liberty and justice for all.”

If a legislator will not support this resolution, they will be declaring publicly in their vote that:

The Legislator DOES NOT “recognize ...that Black, indigenous and all people of color (BICOP) deserve equal protection under the law...”

and that they DO NOT WANT:

“...a solution for the terrible wrongs done so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability and gender identity or sexual orientation, we may become a nation ‘indivisible,’ with liberty and justice for all.”

How can you NOT vote for such an innocuous and humane statement of support of basic civil rights of all citizens? Please look very carefully at this resolution—and at your conscious!

The time has come for Rensselaer County to take this step in making Rensselaer County a more just and safe community for all. Resolution 36 is an opportunity for the Rensselaer County Legislature to demonstrate its support for all of its citizens and to take a stand to show that all lives matter.

I believe all legislators, whatever party, whatever political persuasion should be able to support Resolution 36. So it was extremely disturbing to learn that support for this resolution was weakening due to political pressure. I ask each County Legislator to vote with your conscious, do what is right, and support Resolution 36.

I will state quite frankly, that I could not imagine voting for anyone who could not support Resolution 36, given that it is such a fair and humane statement of justice for all.

The time has come to take this first small, but important, step, to make the world, and Rensselaer County, a better place. Vote to support Resolution 36!!!

Sincerely,



Mary Anne Staniszewski
Averill Park, New York

Charette, Jessica

From: trannv <trannv@rpi.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia
Subject: BLACK LIVES MATTER

County Legislators,

My name is Van Tran Nguyen, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action, it is, by all means, a basic necessary action in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country. It is indeed a basic necessary action that has been ignored long enough by the council.

The utter disregard from the council in regards to Resolution 36 is an egregious and blatant act of racism. As a member of this county, I feel that its leaders are way more concerned about keeping a fascist status quo than do anything to bring equity and change to Rensselaer county.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration,
Van Tran Nguyen

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Charette, Jessica

From: Shawna Norton <shhnort@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution in Support of BLM

County Legislators,

My name is Shawna Norton and I live in the city of Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

This resolution is a necessary step in the beginnings of acknowledging and taking action against systemic racism in our own community. I am so thrilled to see the current energy and recognition surrounding the BLM movement, and the 11,000 people showing up in my city a few weeks ago to demonstrate their support was exciting and inspiring. But showing up to march can't be the end of our commitment.

I am a Middle School History and English teacher. Having studied voices like Dubois, Douglass, Hughes--and exposing my students to many more --we simultaneously recognize injustices faced by these Black artists and activists as well as celebrate these brilliant figures; but I need to know that the things I am teaching my students, that I am showing them, that they are reading and writing about is not the end of the road, that their learning goes beyond the page and enacts change in our communities. Resolution 36 is a crucial step in recognizing our violent history; and in that recognition, comes the beginnings of change.

I urge you to consider voting for this resolution.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Shawna Norton

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Charette, Jessica

From: Zan Strumfeld <zan.rose@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:56 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Zan Strumfeld and I live in the city/town of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I am appalled at seeing how little has been done in the past to truly protect the lives of our city's black and brown people. They make up so much of the beauty of our city, yet there is a distinct division between the treatment of white residents and people of color. When it comes specifically to the city's police, the obvious police brutality has not only been rooted in inherent racial biases, but has gone unpunished for too long. We need an immediate eradication of systemic racism and racial injustice. We need police reform, starting with ending excessive police force and enforcing accountability. We need real protection for our city's people of color. We need this resolution to be passed in order to secure a better, more just future.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you,
Zan Strumfeld
2nd Street, Troy, NY
zan.rose@gmail.com

Charette, Jessica

From: Jaimie Drozdal <jaimiedrozdal@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Jaimie Drozdal, and I live in downtown Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm **writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.**

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I was amazed that 11,000 people came out in Troy to show their support of BLM, and yet only 2-3 officers kneeled (publicly) with protestors. Here in our own community we are seeing Black people killed and harmed by police brutality (including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald). At the rally, the organizers called for Troy PD to get to know their community more. They asked for officers to introduce themselves and know the people walking the streets to avoid Black people being immediately determined as criminals or as threats. **To know that people in my community do not feel safe, protected, or respected by those we are PAYING to protect and serve us is extremely disheartening and unjust. We must not ignore their pleas and concerns.**

To vote against this resolution is to vote against the acknowledgement that numerous Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves. Please remember that your job is to be a public servant to the community - not a servant to politics.

Thank you,
Jaimie Drozdal
165 2nd Street Apt 5
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Nicole Vincent-Roller <nicolevincentroller@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: support for Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Nicole Vincent-Roller, and I live in Schaghticoke in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

To say this resolution is the least we owe to our Black neighbors should not undercut its importance. This gesture of support is a necessary demonstration that our county government is committed to working for all of our best interests, including those community members directly impacted by systemic racism.

Racism and the harm it causes are a problem throughout our country and systems, and Rensselaer County is no exception. The 11,000 people who marched in Troy in support of Black Lives Matter know that. The families of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald, killed and harmed by police brutality, know that. What remains to be seen is what people in power will do about it. I commend the county legislators who have sponsored Resolution 36, and urge those who hesitating to support it to reconsider.

This resolution is a necessary—though not sufficient—step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, I am grateful to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I've been troubled to hear about a pressure campaign on the part of the Chairman and local institutions to discourage support for this resolution, about signatories dropping their names from it, and about revisions that weaken the statement. A more equitable county is better for everyone, and it's hard to see how we can achieve greater equity if we fail to even acknowledge the deep and harmful racial disparities that bring us up short. I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are **not** revelatory. They merely state what history clearly shows: That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgment that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgment of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgment that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated as equal under the law—even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time. I hope you will give this vote for a small gesture in support of simple justice the full consideration that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Nicole Vincent-Roller

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Charette, Jessica

From: Stacy Draper <sskd579@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36 in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Stacy Draper, and I have lived in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County for over 40 years. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was very heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in peaceful support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened all (and particularly white) Americans to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society hiding just under the surfaces of our daily lives. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped away from their families, and where we do not currently have any Black representatives of our communities in the Rensselaer County Legislature.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives, the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region and others that are dedicated to and working for racial justice right here in our local communities. They have already clearly outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

Over more than two and a quarter centuries, Troy and Rensselaer County communities have included people of color. During the era before and during the Civil War, many county residents, white and of color, worked together to end slavery in a nationally recognized effort through the Underground Railroad and other actions and protests, some taking place just a few blocks from where the Legislature conducts its business today. That long tradition of fighting for and working for racial justice and equity in a non-violent way that recognizes all people and their rights to peaceful, productive lives and interactions with each other echoes particularly loudly today. History is calling on us to step up and join together to make our communities, our county a leader again in the cause of human justice and equality.

At a time when all of us need to set aside political differences and work for common goals and the public good, I was dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may appear to be, to take away the voice of the people - We are better than that! It is equally dismaying to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you. Please reconsider.

I strongly urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution. They are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was written by the victors' already know and tell us - that this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and

the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today. It is no longer possible to disregard these truths and work on all fronts to change things for the better.

To vote against this resolution is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against it is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against it is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against it is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against it is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this resolution is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please accept that these are changing times that will ultimately raise all of us higher, build a better, fairer, more peaceful and prosperous Rensselaer County where all citizens can rely on their safety and rights being the same for everyone, regardless of color or belief or any other of the many differences that make our communities vibrant. Please take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves, knowing that history is watching what each and every one of us does in these changing times. When we look back at this era, it will be clear who stood up for justice and who did not, and who stayed silent when the opportunity came to make a difference.

Thank you for doing the right thing here and for your many efforts to make Rensselaer County the best it can be for all its citizens.

Regards,
Stacy Draper
Troy, NY 12182

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Charette, Jessica

From: Kimberley Belleville <kim_possible97@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution In Support Of The Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Kimberley Belleville, and I live in the town of North Greenbush in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I have 2 small children, and I want to raise them in a town that shows value and respect for every member of our community. I want them to hear voices different than theirs speak, and I want them to listen. If I can ask this of my children, I should be able to ask this of the adults who represent them. I still have faith in governing, that we can do the right thing for everyone in our county. Even if it makes some of us uncomfortable to face the fact that we have made some poor choices in the past. We have the chance to make it right, right now. Let's make it right.

To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

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Charette, Jessica

From: G D <gdeyss@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Charette, Jessica; McLaughlin, Steve
Subject: Resolution 36?

Resolution 36-- calls for an eradication of systemic racism and the institution of racial justice.
Seriously?

So why is the painting of Streets with Black Lives Matter or the planting of signs that say Black Lives Matter not considered systemic racism?

Why are WHITE People being killed or attacked when they indicate ALL LIVES MATTER?

This is so ridiculous.

All Lives DO Matter.

Govern from Logic and not Persuasion !

Gregory J. Deyss

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Charette, Jessica

From: JIM DE SEVE <huatou276@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:43 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: CAUTION: DMARC policy activated. Support for Black Lives Matter resolution

Dear Clerk: Please share with all the county legislators. Thank you! -Jim de Seve

--

Dear County Legislators,

Please support the resolution before the legislature in favor of Black Lives Matter.

As you know, people of color are disproportionately persecuted by our nations' law enforcement agencies. It is time this changes.

The resolution before you will show that symbolically the people of Rensselaer County stand with its citizens of color in demanding a change to the way policing is performed in the county.

I urge your support.

Thank you,

Jim de Seve
276 10th St.
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ross Kunze <rosskunze@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: pgrim@renesco.com; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Ross Kunze and I live in Troy, NY in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Though this resolution is not sufficient in and of itself, it is still a vitally important action we must take in acknowledging the very real threat of racism, violence, and continued injustice against Black residents in our county and in our country. There is so much more work that must be done and I am grateful to live in a community that has a group like Troy 4 Black Lives who is doing the work for racial justice. They have already identified what steps we must take to prove we actually DO care about the lives and well-being of Black people. We just need to listen. **Please listen.**

I've been in the Capital Region for 5 years—the last 3 years of that in Troy. I love the diversity of our city and the cultural opportunities that come with it. Growing up in homogeneous towns of the midwest I wasn't exposed to this myriad of people or cultures. My appreciation for our community swelled in response to the historic Troy Rally for Black Lives, organized and executed by Troy 4 Black Lives on June 7, 2020. I was proud to be one of the 11,000 that came out to support Black Lives Matter in my new home town.

With that said, I am bewildered to find out that Chairman Stammel had the audacity to pressure and threaten other legislators who had signed onto this resolution. That certainly diminishes the feelings of pride I had only a few weeks ago to live here. How dare he?! I'm equally dismayed that some of those who signed the legislation and claim to represent the city of Troy removed their names because of the bullying of this Chairman. How does this reflect the interests of the people who elected you? How does this represent democracy? Though these signatories and Chairman Stammel may not have intended to, by removing their names, they have acted to uphold White Supremacy. Gross.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I hope you will take this vote standing on the side of justice.

In solidarity with Black lives,
Ross Kunze
South Lake Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: bethbornick@nycap.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:38 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Stammel, Mike; Peter, Chuck; Loveridge, Robert; Bendett, Scott
Subject: I support Black Lives Matter

I live in rural Rensselaer County, and I support today's resolution recognizing that Black lives matter. I would like my county legislature to take an active stance against systemic racism at every opportunity.

Despite being a high-risk individual, I marched in Troy last month in support of this movement. Having served as a board member of a non-profit in Troy, and having lived in both Troy and Rensselaer over the years, I appreciate the diversity of our cities and communities, and urge you to please take a stand in support of our Black neighbors.

Thank you,

Beth Bornick
1033 Plank Road
Averill Park, NY 12018

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jess Sullivan <jesslynnsullivan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:35 AM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for Resolution #P/276/20

My name is Jess Sullivan. I am a resident of Troy (6 Sherry Rd.). I am writing in strong support of resolution P/276/20, the resolution in support of the BLM movement.

This resolution is the *bare minimum* we can do. It simply states facts which I hope we can all agree on: e.g., "That the Rensselaer County Legislature advocates against systemic racism in the justice system"; to be honest, I am shocked and dismayed to hear that there is anything other than strong support for this resolution.

Please do the the right things and pass this resolution.

Best,
Jess Sullivan

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Charette, Jessica

From: Linda O'Malley <lindaomalley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:56 AM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36

Hello Rensselaer County Legislators,

I am struggling to send an email supporting resolution 36 from our family's rental in the Adirondacks. I hope this one gets there...

My experience as a community representative on PORC in 2013-2014 in Troy gave me insight into how protected the police are by the union (and by each other). I learned how information was kept under wraps, and I came to see how little hope there was for improved community policing; the grant ran out shortly thereafter and the program gutted. There is a need for something completely different than what we have. The 50-A change will help some, *but we need more than that*. As I represented the concerns from the black community-- concerns/fears that their children might not survive an encounter with police-- I was told it was an "urban myth". Until recently, when so many people saw for themselves the attitude of an officer murdering a black man on camera, and his utter lack of concern or shame in the way he stared back at us... But that was IT. It is time for real change. It is clear that it is *not* a community connection that over- militarized police are seeking, and it is what is necessary. And cooperation...

It's time for the county to be responsive, particularly since we've had no choice about Sheriff Russo's choices regarding the ICE initiative. I see that this is controversial and everything is loaded, yet doing nothing is no longer an option. We want action. We NEED action. Resolution 36 is already revised to be more palatable, and needs to pass. We seek legislators with a conscience and courage to take this forward.

Thank you,
Linda O'Malley

760 4th Ave
Troy, NY 12182
5188677793

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Charette, Jessica

From: MacGilfrey, Cheyenne
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: FW: Resolution P/36

Just making sure you have a copy of this as well.

From: juenger42m@nycap.rr.com [mailto:juenger42m@nycap.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Bayly, Robert
Subject: Resolution P/36

Dear Mr. Bayly,

I'm writing to ask you to support Resolution p/36 at tonight's meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature. This resolution begins the process of ensuring Rensselaer County residents of color that they are a vital and appreciated part of the county. It's only a beginning, but allows us as a county to stand up for the rights of all citizens, as we have going back to the Anti-Rent Riots of the mid 19th century.

As a Poestenkill resident, I figure that if I am in favor, without a Black Lives Matter yard sign, given that other residents have such signs, there is support for this resolution in our town.

As we go forward, there are actions the county can take which will be easy. Having assets seized in police actions go to local community groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs in Troy and Rensselaer, Nopiates in Averill Park, or other programs which address inequity, would help out those programs a great deal.

Thank you for being a legislator, and thank you for your attention to this email.

Sincerely,
Martha Juenger
635 Snyders Corners Rd.
Poestenkill

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jean Tschanz-Egger <jean.l.egger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 11:03 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Resolution 36

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Jean Tschanz-Egger, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color—racism, injustices, and violence that permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people—including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald—killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I am proud to live in a vibrant and diverse city like Troy and believe the best way forward is to listen to the community.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place to take away the voice of the people—only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position. I was also dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jean Tschanz-Egger

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Charette, Jessica

From: Anthony Garner <GarnerA@aplususa.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36, Tuesday July 14

Dear Ms. Charette, please pass my message below on to the County Legislators:

Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Anthony Garner and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we ALL still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps might be. We just need to listen.

Living in South Troy I see the evidence of systemic racism every single day. I see economic disadvantage, educational disadvantage, social disadvantage, political and legal disadvantage, all of which have their roots in systemic racism. You may feel that you are not responsible, that you did not make this happen, that those who are disadvantaged should take it upon themselves to lift themselves up; but I say to you, that you cannot even imagine the power and oppression of racism and disadvantage. As you fail to understand, and you become the problem, and you become responsible to continuing a systemic situation that is, at the very least un-American.

To be American means to take responsibility. That is why you ran for Office, and that is why you were elected. Please accept the responsibility that you were elected to, and please help this one corner of a great nation to set an example of how America can move through and past what is our greatest tragedy.

A vote FOR this resolution is a vote for responsibility, for acceptance of what is painful and obvious, and a statement that we can imagine a better future, where we all work to end the historic marginalization and brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color.

A vote FOR this resolution is a clear statement that you believe in the America of civil liberties, of human rights, and of voting rights.

A vote FOR this resolution is a clear statement that you believe all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law.

I ask you to vote FOR this resolution, and to thereby position Rensselaer County as a leader and as an example of how great America can be.

I am currently working from home, and checking e-mail regularly.

Sincerely,

Anthony H. Garner AIA
Associate

architecture⁺

297 River Street
Troy, New York 12180

P 518.272.4481

F 518.272.1605

www.aplususa.com

garnera@aplususa.com



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Charette, Jessica

From: Judith Enck <judithaenck@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:59 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support Black Lives Matter Resolution

July 13, 2020

Honorable County Legislators:

I understand that there is a resolution before the county legislature, introduced by county legislators Grimm and Doran, which express support for racial justice and Black Lives Matter.

I strongly urge you to adopt this resolution and to take concrete steps to put the goals of the resolution in to practice in every aspect of county government. This will be an important process, and one which needs to start now.

The County administers a wide range of programs. Each one should be analyzed, with the respective commissioners, elected officials and interested members of the public, to determine how things can be done differently.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these urgent issues.

Sincerely,

Judith Enck
Poestenkill, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Christopher Ames <amesc@sage.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Fwd: County Resolution on Black Lives Matter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christopher Ames** <amesc@sage.edu>
Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2020 at 3:32 PM
Subject: County Resolution on Black Lives Matter
To: <PGrimm@rensko.com>, <MStammel@rensko.com>
Cc: Noreen McKee <mckeenoreen@gmail.com>

I write to offer support for County Resolution 36 in support of Black Lives Matter. I believe the nation has an opportunity to address systemic racism with renewed vigor and widespread support in a way that can be transformative. A colleague called it the Third Reconstruction. I commend the sponsors of the resolution for asking that the County Legislature endorse these principles of racial equality and justice.

Sincerely,

Chris Ames

--
Christopher Ames
President, Russell Sage College
518-244-2214



--
Christopher Ames
President, Russell Sage College
518-244-2214



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Charette, Jessica

From: Shirley Buel <sjoanbuel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:38 PM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter from the League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County

Chairman Stammel:

As thousands took to the streets in peaceful protest, the killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police raised awareness throughout our country about the systemic racism that continues to exist in our society. Black people and people of color do not have equal access to economic opportunity, quality healthcare, good schools, adequate housing, and the voting booth. In addition, our criminal justice system, structured to discriminate on the basis of color, requires major reforms. The League of Women Voters believes that for all lives to matter, Black lives must matter. We, as a society, need to actively work to break down the barriers that allow some to languish while others prosper. Thus, we applaud the Rensselaer County Legislature for introducing a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and urge all legislators to approve its passage.

Judy Meyer Shirley Buel
Co President Co President
LWVRC LWVRC
judymeyer@gmail.com sjoanbuel@gmail.com



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Charette, Jessica

From: Velho, Raquel <velhor@rpi.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:58 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Agenda for Tuesday's Meeting?

To the Clerk of the Legislature:

I would appreciate a copy of the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks in advance!

With kind regards,

Raquel

Raquel Velho, PhD | she/her/hers
Assistant Professor
Science & Technology Studies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Office: Sage 5114

Tel: (518) 276-2199
Twitter: @RSVelho
<http://www.raquelvelho.com>

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Charette, Jessica

From: Linda O'Malley <lindaomalley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Grimm, Peter
Cc: Stammel, Mike
Subject: Resolution for BLM

Hello Peter,

I have read through resolution 36 regarding to need to address structural racism, policing and compensation. It is the bare minimum to be said, and we require action beyond rhetoric and must insist upon it. Please vote yes.

Linda H O'Malley

Note: I'm not forgetting about ICE squatting in our county... Hoping someday we can do something about that.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Bob Blackmon <still.life.guy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 11:00 AM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: The Black Lives Matter Resolution

I'm writing to urge you and your fellow legislators to support the Black Lives Matter Resolution (#36) currently pending in the Rensselaer County Legislator. Given all the events of recent months, even years, across the country and here in our county, it's important that we all speak loudly and strongly for our citizens of color.

One of the common arguments against the BLM movement is that "All Lives Matter." That is in fact true, but such a statement misses the point. "All" of us have not been enslaved, abused, discriminated against for hundreds of years in this country. It's people of color have suffered, and now is the time to make a strong statement that we support the BLM movement.

I hope you will lend your support to the resolution and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Unanimous support would be wonderful, and I hope you agree.

Thanks for listening.

Best regards,

Bob Blackmon
21 Ahern Ave
Troy, NY 12180

--

Oil Paintings by Bob Blackmon
Blackmon Studio in Clare Cottage
Associate Member, Oil Painters of America

Charette, Jessica

From: Bob Doherty <doherty4troy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 7:34 AM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: I am recommending that P/27 Resolution in Memorial for Sgt. Randall French be either withdrawn or not supported

Sgt, Randall French was a highly esteemed member of the Troy Police Department who died sadly , at the age of 39 April 30th of Covid-19. In addition to his work as a TPD officer, he was involved in Emergency Medial Assistance with an ambulance service in our County. He was aspiring to gain further credentials in that role. as well as his long involvement is service provision. Sgt. French left a wife and two school age daughters.

I am making this recommendation based on timing and the well known event of the shooting death of Edson Thevenin, a DUI suspect in the course of his attempted apprehension. Mr. Thevenin had fled the scene of his police stop and subsequently crashed into a cement wall on Route 7, immobilizing his vehicle which was boxed in by tow TPD patrol cars. Mr. Thevenin was unarmed and virtually immobilized at the time Sgt French shot him seven times and killed him. Statements of that event and forensic facts are not in agreement.

Sgt. French was given a heroes ceremony on May 2nd with accompanying honor guard and a caravan of Emergency Vehicles that extended on both sides of Sixth Avenue from Congress Street to Federal and involving Police, Fire and medical ambulance services with hundreds of varied uniformed well wishers as well as he the public and his family.

The death of George Floyd on May 25h has thrown our nation and the world into public dialogue about police civilian killings. In Troy, a demonstration attracted 11,000 participants. These subjects have dominated media and public dialogue with resulting Legislation in Congress.

Many might think this proposed delayed honoring of Sgt. French might be motivated by the fact he is the only TPD officer to have killed an African American person. Taking this delayed action could also be construed as a sideways communications action on the "Black lives Matter" movement. Robert Doherty, Troy Resident

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Charette, Jessica

From: Bob Doherty <doherty4troy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 7:33 AM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Support for P/36 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT, CALLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

The unfortunate death of George Floyd on May 25th at the hands of the Police in Minneapolis sparked an American and subsequently World Wide reaction to Police violence against persons of color. The movement of "Black Lives Matter" led demonstrations, dialogue, and Police policy changes expanding their membership exponentially in the weeks since that incident. This was spurred by a nine minute video recording of the purposeful asphyxiation of Mr. Floyd for no apparent reason other than wanton killing. The public, both persons of color and the majority ethnic groups, came together in concern and with a will to change practices. In Troy we had a demonstration that attracted 11,000 participants.

The importance to our Country of truly uniting in our demands for fair and equal treatment for all citizens has gained broad support. White America in its majority now sees clearly a need for us to eradicate systemic racism from public practices and policies. Our actions day to day to make America truly the "Land of the Free and the Brave" are reflected in the Resolution. Please reflect what is best in our Country's founding principles. Robert Doherty, Troy resident

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sean Collins <spcollins90@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Agenda for July 14 Regular Meeting of the Legislature

Hello,

I am emailing to request a copy of the agenda for the July 14 regular meeting, including copies of resolutions and items to be discussed at that meeting, as they are not currently available online.

Thanks,
Sean Collins
SEIU Local 200/United/Troy Area Labor Council AFL-CIO
518.265.9895

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sydney Lemire <sydney1901@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 8:20 PM
To: Grimm, Peter; Charette, Jessica
Subject: Black Lives Matter.

Hello,

My name is Sydney and I'm a lifelong resident of North Greenbush. Recent events from Minneapolis to Fort Hood to right here in Rensselaer County have made it abundantly clear to anyone who wasn't already paying attention that racism is still alive and well in this country. Black people continue to be marginalized, victimized, and killed in ways unthinkable by many who have been sheltered from reality.

I implore the members of both the Democratic and Republican parties to take a stand for Black Lives Matter. I am fully in support of the Resolution to support the movement and I hope that we can see progress here in Rensco to create a space where Black lives do indeed matter.

Thank you,
Sydney Lemire

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Charette, Jessica

From: Noreen McKee <mckeenoreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Weaver, Carole; Peter, Chuck; Grimm, Peter; Burns, Bobby; Patire, Bruce; Casale, Daniel; Wysocki, Jeffrey; Herrington, Kenneth; Fiocco, Leon; Stammel, Mike; Fleming, Mark; Bayly, Robert; Loveridge, Robert; Bendett, Scott; Grant, Thomas; Tesman, Todd; Doran, Cynthia; Sullivan-Teta, Erin; Hoffman, Kelly; McLaughlin, Steve
Subject: Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter

On June 7th over 11,000 people attended a rally at Riverfront Park in Troy and marched peacefully in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, which was galvanized into action throughout our country after the senseless killing of George Floyd by the Minneapolis police. Troy's Mayor Madden issued an eloquent statement of solidarity with "Black Lives Matter" sending a sorely needed strong signal of support to the minority members of our community. The County Legislature appears to be silent on this issue except for the statement issued to the press by Minority Leader Grimm. Where are the voices of support from the other elected County legislators? Our County Executive? Black Lives Matter is a movement committed to "creating a world free of anti-Blackness, where every Black person has the social, economic, and political power to thrive." Clearly there are issues of structural inequality here in Rensselaer County including voter suppression, the demonization of immigrants, the lack of access to a quality education, decent healthcare and adequate housing in our minority neighborhoods, and the need for reform in our justice and public safety systems. Working together creatively, thoughtfully and collaboratively will pave the way for a better, more inclusive and successful Rensselaer County improving the lives of all members of our community.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends".

Noreen McKee
Troy

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July 8, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislature:

This is to request your support of "The Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color," Resolution P-36.

While it would be so easy to declare that "all lives matter," that mentality ignores the structural disparities and racism that have been perpetuated in this nation since its founding. It was not that long ago that segregation in stores, on buses, in restaurants, and in schools was widely accepted, even in the North. It was not that long ago that poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and literacy tests were used to keep People of Color from voting.

You could argue that those examples are ancient history. But you could also argue that current forms of voter suppression such as requiring IDs or reducing polling locations in minority communities are just as damaging. These voter suppression methods continue to target minority and poor communities. The fact is that persistent and perpetual systemic racism exists, and we need to change. And we need to make a difference.

In education, People of Color are less likely to graduate from high school, those that do graduate from high school are less likely to go on to higher education, and those who go on to college are less likely to graduate. That lack of education impacts on jobs and income, which limits access to appropriate housing, access to decent food, and access to health insurance. People of Color historically have less access to medical care, have more co-morbidities, and ultimately have worse health outcomes. The impact of COVID-19 on People of Color was not an outlier, but just another example of systemic health disparities.

We continue to have discrimination in this nation based on race and ethnicity. Supporting this resolution is a needed but first step in addressing this discrimination.

Again, I request your support of "The Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color," Resolution P-36.

Sincerely,

Robert Martiniano, DrPH

Charette, Jessica

From: Noreen McKee <mckeenoreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 2:37 PM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Statement in Support of Resolution 36 re Black Lives Matter

July 8, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

The tragic killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police has awakened America to the racism and injustices suffered by people of color that permeate our society. The scourge of slavery continues to rear its ugly head in the form of discrimination and prejudice producing inequalities in economics, employment, education, healthcare, the justice system, and participation in the political process.

Peaceful protests throughout the country led by the Black Lives Matter movement have galvanized many in our society to take action to bring about change. Indeed, 11,000 people rallied in Troy and many others throughout the Capital Region to show their support for and solidarity with BLM. It's gratifying to see so many individuals, businesses, agencies, non-profit and religious organizations coming out with statements that commit them to change. Indeed, many of the Fortune 500 have issued statements vowing to stand with Black Lives Matter, acknowledging that if Black lives don't matter, NO lives matter. Not only are they issuing supportive statements but are committing resources, time and money, to righting the wrongs that stem from racism. Those corporate titans operating in Rensselaer County include the following:

Amazon
Bank of America
Home Depot
Target
Starbucks
Walmart
McDonalds
Wendys

Others include but are not limited to:

JP Morgan Chase
Citibank
Wells Fargo
Many Wall St. Firms including Fidelity Investments and Schwab
Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Square
Microsoft
Google
The NFL
The NBA
The NHL

NASCAR
Levis
Athleta
Lululemon
Old Navy
Gap
Nike
Coca-Cola
Converse
Adidas
Pepsi Cola
Ben & Jerry's
Disney
Nordstrom
HBO

The list of corporate giants supporting Black Lives Matter continues to grow.

And It is also gratifying to see that our political leaders here in Rensselaer County have stood up to do the right thing by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. I urge the Legislature to vote "yes" to pass this resolution. It's an important step to achieve racial justice, which will improve **ALL** lives.

Thank you,

Noreen McKee
Troy

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Charette, Jessica

From: Christopher Ames <amesc@sage.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Grimm, Peter; Stammel, Mike
Cc: Noreen McKee
Subject: County Resolution on Black Lives Matter

I write to offer support for County Resolution 36 in support of Black Lives Matter. I believe the nation has an opportunity to address systemic racism with renewed vigor and widespread support in a way that can be transformative. A colleague called it the Third Reconstruction. I commend the sponsors of the resolution for asking that the County Legislature endorse these principles of racial equality and justice.

Sincerely,

Chris Ames

--

Christopher Ames
President, Russell Sage College
518-244-2214



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Charette, Jessica

From: Renée Powell <reep2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 3:39 PM
To: Stammel, Mike
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: "Black lives Matter" Resolution

Mr Stammel,

It has come to my attention that a resolution is being put forward to acknowledge the "Black Lives Matter" movement.

This resolution will be the beginning to opening the doors to the understanding of inclusion within the Rensselaer County community. The Rensselaer County Legislators will be viewed as responsibly taking the lead to set the tone as this resolution acknowledges racial inequities and respect for black lives.

The NAACP Troy Branch stand in support of the resolution as a beginning to addressing the inequities that have been experienced related to economic opportunities, criminal justices and political rights. On the heels of a successful criminal injustice & reform protest rally sponsored by various advocacy groups, the resolution is timely.

In Solidarity,

Renee Powell
President
NAACP Troy (NY) Branch

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ezra Jérémie Teboul <teboue@rpi.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia

Dear Rensselaer Legislature

My name is Ezra Teboul, and I live on 5th ave. in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 as well as of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Although I don't think resolution 36 is nearly enough to begin making rensselaer county what it deserves to be for its disenfranchised residents, it certainly would be a start. 11 thousand people in Troy came to show you they cared, and I'm just writing to echo the concerns and requests that motivated that demonstration.

Indeed racism is real, and affects the way the police and the government operates in proven, documented ways, even if individual responsibility gets obscured. It's a historical legacy that people in power have a responsibility to address for those they represent. Resolution 36 represents a starting point, an opportunity to prove you are willing to listen.

Please keep that in mind when listening to its detractors, and when you cast your vote. After this passes, we can finally begin the hard work of fixing things.

With my regards,

Ezra

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Charette, Jessica

From: Csilla Aglaure-Szekelyhidi <csilla.aglaure18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 1:28 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment to County Legislator

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Csilla Aglaure, and I live in Troy, NY, in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

As a newer resident of Troy, it has been beautiful to watch the community come together and welcome strangers like myself, regardless of skin color, creed, or economic status. As a result, Troy has quickly become home. I was especially heartened to see 11,000 people come out during the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter.

While the tragic murder of George Floyd is only one of many in a long list of black American's negligently treated because of their skin color, it has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence that continue to permeate our society. Rensselaer County has not escaped these prejudices, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

Simple actions like passing Resolution 36, while still not nearly enough, is a critical steps towards changing this narrative for Rensselaer County. It is no longer enough to want change, but to not act on it. Requiring those who hold the keys, in this case, the County Legislator, to build a movement for systemic change is essential. Passing Resolution 36 is the first step.

And, why not if it benefits the community as a whole? Why deny the request of the constituents you represent? Change is what we want, and change in support of the black lives which have repeatedly been violated across America, and especially within Rensselaer County, is what we *need*. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives are already doing the work for racial justice and have already outlined what the next steps should be. ***We just need to listen.***

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgment that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgment of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgment that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Very best,
Csilla Aglaure-Szekelyhidi

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Charette, Jessica

From: Miriam Cantor-Stone <miriamcantorstone@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: BLACK LIVES MATTER

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Miriam Cantor-Stone, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in my city in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I only recently moved to the Capital Region, and have been heartened to see the support for minority-owned businesses during these turbulent times. But I know there is more than can be done, and I hope you will work to show support for this movement. I still have much to learn about my new hometown, but I would very much like to be proud of it and my local government moving forward.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, and I wish you all the best moving forward through these strange times we're living in today.

All the best,
Miriam

--

Miriam B. Cantor-Stone
832.715.3179
miriamcantorstone@gmail.com
My pronouns: she/her/hers

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Charette, Jessica

From: Zak <zguthrie1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:11 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution, No. 36

With all due respect to our local government I want to voice a complaint after seeing this resolution. I can't help but see most of this as empty platitudes meant to pacify rightfully angry and terrorized people. Why is there not a willingness to take this unprecedented historic moment to bring about real change? Why is there not a push to use the fullest power of our county to put some teeth behind police accountability? When police break the law, why do they so often avoid fines and jail time that all the rest of us would see? Why aren't we fighting the unchecked power of police unions? Where are the laws that are actually actionable? A resolution to say 'Police brutality is nuaghty' isn't good enough.

Zachary Guthrie
Lifetime Troy resident

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Charette, Jessica

From: Cheryl Mugno <sissymugs@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:56 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; codoran@renesco.com
Subject: Vote Yes on Resolution 36

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Cheryl Mugno and I have lived in the town of Sand Lake in Rensselaer County for over 35 years.

I'm writing in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and in support of Resolution 36.

Your vote in support of this resolution is a *step* in the right direction. But your failure to support the resolution would be a travesty, a continued effort to ignore our long and tired history of racial injustice and racial violence against Black Americans in this country. Yes, at this time in our history, it takes a great deal of effort and energy to ignore racism. Instead, use that energy to strengthen, not destroy, our democracy.

Now is the time to take a public stand. Now is the time to promise support of specific actions to overcome the virus of racism and to correct the injustice and violence committed against Black residents in our community. We have disregarded and tolerated these injustices far too long.

I was one of the 11,000 people who marched recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. At first, I couldn't see the compelling need to attend, blinded by my numbness and acceptance of yet another tragic murder of a mother's Black son. It took my daughter, a younger generation's perspective, to explain what should have been obvious, we need to Show Up - every time. The murder of George Floyd has re-awakened white America to the unjustifiable racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color that permeates our society.

Here in Rensselaer County, it's time to Show Up. This resolution is necessary to acknowledge the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors. We must acknowledge, for ourselves and others, how much work there is to do. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives can offer concrete steps. We need to cast off the numbness and listen.

I implore you to set aside the politics and be on the right side of history. Caucus with the right cause, not the laggards who fail to see what our future demands of us. Listen to the people, all of them, and do right by history. The power brokers won't last. But realigning our County, and eventually our Country, on the right course of justice will be an enduring legacy. You have a chance today to start building that legacy. Vote Yes.

With thanks for your service,

Cheryl Mugno

73 Valley Drive

West Sand Lake, NY 12196

518-441-3924

sissymugs@msn.com

Charette, Jessica

From: Cheryl Mugno <sisymugs@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Vote Yes for Resolution 36

Resolution 36- Yes!

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Cheryl Mugno and I have lived in the town of Sand Lake in Rensselaer County for over 35 years. I'm writing in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and in support of Resolution 36.

Your vote in support of this resolution is a *step* in the right direction. But your failure to support the resolution would be a travesty, a continued effort to ignore our long and tired history of racial injustice and racial violence against Black Americans in this country. Yes, at this time in our history, it takes a great deal of effort and energy to ignore racism. Instead, use that energy to strengthen, not destroy, our democracy.

Now is the time to take a public stand. Now is the time to promise support of specific actions to overcome the virus of racism and to correct the injustice and violence committed against Black residents in our community. We have disregarded and tolerated these injustices far too long.

I was one of the 11,000 people who marched recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. At first, I couldn't see the compelling need to attend, blinded by my numbness and acceptance of yet another tragic murder of a mother's Black son. It took my daughter, a younger generation's perspective, to explain what should have been obvious, we need to Show Up - every time. The murder of George Floyd has re-awakened white America to the unjustifiable racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color that permeates our society.

Here in Rensselaer County, it's time to Show Up. This resolution is necessary to acknowledge the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors. We must acknowledge, for ourselves and others, how much work there is to do. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives can offer concrete steps. We need to cast off the numbness and listen.

I implore you to set aside the politics and be on the right side of history. Caucus with the right cause, not the laggards who fail to see what our future demands of us. Listen to the people, all of them, and do right by history. The power brokers won't last. But realigning our County, and eventually our Country, on the right course of justice will be an enduring legacy. You have a chance today to start building that legacy. Vote Yes.

With thanks for your service,
Cheryl Mugno
73 Valley Drive
West Sand Lake, NY 12196
518-441-3924

Charette, Jessica

From: Steve Pierce <pierce@mediasanctuary.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:04 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for Resolution 36

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Steve Pierce, and I live in the only Stephentown on Earth. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36.

I think this resolution is a basic necessary action to acknowledge how much work we still have to do to address the racism and violence that affects us all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Pierce
Stephentown, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Nathan Meltz <nathanmeltz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Comments for Public Meeting

Dear Rensselaer County Clerk,

As a resident of Rensselaer County, I request my below comments be read into the record of tonight's public meeting.

Thanks for your time.
Nathan Meltz

Dear County Legislatures,

My name is Nathan Meltz, a resident of Troy in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

As we saw a few weeks back, the citizens of our community came out to the streets to show their support for the Black community in the region that has suffered generational hardships in the form of systematic racism.

Why do we need this resolution? To show we care. Because if we don't stand up and make our voices heard in the name of justice, the void will be filled with another voice: a hateful one. Have you seen a Confederate Flag in Rensselaer County? I have, and it represents a voice in which white supremacy is the order of the day and immigrants are deported to their "sh*thole countries," to quote an infamous bigot.

It is time to be on the right side of history. Someday our grandchildren will look back at the actions we took today. Do we want to be remembered as perpetuating another generation of harm against our fellow human beings? Or for pushing forward a new attitude of mutual respect, justice, and peace?

I commend the brave legislators who have stood up in favor of this resolution. And I commend any others who decide to be brave, just, and join them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nathan Meltz
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Darcy Ryan <dryan9132@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:48 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36

My name is Darcy Ryan, and I live in the city/town of North Greenbush in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Susan Nowogrodzki <nowog@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support the Black Lives Matter resolution
Attachments: BLM resolution.docx

July 13, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

We have resided in Rensselaer County since 1980, raised our children here in East Greenbush and continue to enjoy living in this community. This area offers many opportunities and resources; unfortunately, as is true throughout our country, there is an inequality in how these are offered and distributed. This moment in time presents all of us with a chance to stand up, speak out and make a difference.

It is heartening to know that our political leaders have done just that, by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. We can understand that some in the Rensselaer County Legislature find they don't agree with ALL that this resolution proposes. However, isn't it more important to say Yes to support human rights and racial equality, rather than NO to some language and perceived legalistic differences?? Black Lives Matter does NOT mean that other lives don't. It's a reminder, in case we forgot, that they do.

We agree with the majority of the people you represent in urging you to vote "YES" on the proposed resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

Thank You,

Susan Nowogrodzki
Conly Rieder

East Greenbush

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Charette, Jessica

From: Bob Doherty <doherty4troy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:26 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Citizen Support for P/36 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

I am for full and unwavering support for this necessary action to announce our approval and support of Res. P/36.

Since My 25, 2020, when George Floyd was, purposefully and without mercy, slowly killed for all of us to see hate on action. All citizens are aware of the terrible price minority citizens have paid for the silence and hence complicity of the sleet majority. We are silent no more and have been awakened and motivated.

For most of our citizens, of all ethnic and racial origins this became a moment of clarity. We need to stand together is dignity and safety and acknowledge and promote "Black Lives Matter".

To link this to a negative view of Police is goofy. We all need and want professional, evenly applied, law enforcement. Conversations to the contrary are distortions and a distraction.

Robert Doherty, 1585 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, New York 12180

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Charette, Jessica

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Robert Doherty, 1585 Tibbits Avenue, Troy, New York 12180

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RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Introduced by Legislator(s) Grimm, Doran, Fleming

Sent To: _____

Committee _____

Date _____

Resolution No. _____

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT, CALLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF COLOR

WHEREAS, The deaths of George Floyd and countless other black people have focused our nation's attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism that plague our communities; and

WHEREAS, Data shows that black people and historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The Rensselaer County Legislature cannot ignore these injustices that have unfairly targeted Black people and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, In order to progress in these challenging times, this legislative body believes we, as a nation, need to make drastic changes to the traditional way of doing things. We acknowledge that we have the opportunity to address systemic racism with a renewed vigor and widespread support in a way that can and will be transformative; and

WHEREAS, In order for such metamorphic change it is essential for all communities of our nation to acknowledge that it is time for change; and

WHEREAS, The Black Lives Matter movement has brought to the forefront the current crisis, which is a result of well-established racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2020, in the City of Troy, an estimated 11,000 people attended a Rally for Black Lives, demonstrating peacefully for an end to racism and supporting systematic reforms; and

WHEREAS, This legislature recognizes, appreciates and supports the work and dedication of our honorable public servants and the model set by them in their handling of a demonstration of such magnitude; and

WHEREAS, The Rensselaer County Legislature acknowledges painfully that America is a nation steeped in racism. We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge to be; and

WHEREAS, The Rensselaer County Legislature believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights. We defend democracy and oppose all threats to the constitutional rights; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Rensselaer County Legislature advocates against systemic racism from this day forward in this nation. We also call upon our local, state and national legislative members to task our institutions and agencies to collaborate and address the problem of systemic racism within all institutional practices and public policies and by instituting programs of change that will end racism, insure justice and continue to build and transform our communities to be welcoming and inclusive of all; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Rensselaer County Legislature help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BICOP) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible", with liberty and justice for all; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Legislature transmit a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, to Senators Charles Schumer & Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressmen Paul Tonko & Antonio Delgado, NYS Senators Neil Breslin & Daphne Jordan,

Assembly members John McDonald & Jacob Ashby and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Resolution ADOPTED by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Date: July 14, 2020

Charette, Jessica

From: Lori Lawrence <lorilawrenceart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Black Lives Matter Resolution

to pgrimm, cdoran



To: Rensselaer County Legislators,
Black Lives Matter Resolution

We must begin the process of changing our society practically, so that our housing, educational opportunities, salaries and hourly wages, healthcare, justice system and such "small" things such as a local store that carries healthy produce and groceries are available equally in our society.

We can no longer speak words without action. This will be difficult, as racism is embedded in so many of us without our even knowing it.

Rensselaer must be part of this action. It is time to begin to improve all lives. I urge you to pass this resolution and start action NOW.

Thank you,
Lori Lawrence
resident of Rensselaer County.

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July 13, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

We have resided in Rensselaer County since 1980, raised our children here in East Greenbush and continue to enjoy living in this community. This area offers many opportunities and resources; unfortunately, as is true throughout our country, there is an inequality in how these are offered and distributed. This moment in time presents all of us with a chance to stand up, speak out and make a difference.

It is heartening to know that our political leaders have done just that, by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. We can understand that some in the Rensselaer County Legislature find they don't agree with ALL that this resolution proposes. However, isn't it more important to say Yes to support human rights and racial equality, rather than NO to some language and perceived legalistic differences?? Black Lives Matter does NOT mean that other lives don't. It's a reminder, in case we forgot, that they do.

We agree with the majority of the people you represent in urging you to vote **"YES"** on the proposed resolution supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

Thank You,

Susan Nowogrodzki
Conly Rieder

East Greenbush

Charette, Jessica

From: Julia <julia@thesupportedparent.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 12:18 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Fwd: BLM Resolution

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Grimm <grimtroyp@aol.com>
Date: July 13, 2020 at 11:53:19 AM EDT
To: "julia@thesupportedparent.com" <julia@thesupportedparent.com>
Cc: "pgrimm@rensco.com" <pgrimm@rensco.com>, "cdoran@rensco.com" <cdoran@rensco.com>
Subject: Re: BLM Resolution
Reply-To: Peter Grimm <grimtroyp@aol.com>

Thank you Julia for this email. May I suggest you send a copy to the Clerk of the legislature to distribute to all voting legislators. Her name is Jessica Charette and her email is: jcharette@rensco.com

Peter

-----Original Message-----

From: Julia <julia@thesupportedparent.com>
Cc: pgrimm@rensco.com; cdoran@rensco.com
Sent: Mon, Jul 13, 2020 11:41 am
Subject: BLM Resolution

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Julia Cadieux and I am a new home-owner, landlord, and resident in Troy, NY. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is an important first step in recognizing the continued injustice and violence perpetrated on black and brown residents of this city and every city across the country. While this resolution is not enough to change the current inequities in our institutions, it does let people know where this legislature stands and the intentions they have in regards to this matter.

This resolution has support by an overwhelming majority and is certainly what the people of Troy want. Just look at the recent rally for Black Lives Matter

that took place after the murder of George Floyd by police. 11,000 people flooded the streets of our city to say Enough is Enough. I was one of them. It was an incredibly powerful experience to join with so many peaceful protesters and demand justice for our own community members.

I moved to Troy from Delmar, NY specifically to give my two young children the experience of living in a diverse community with a robust and active movement for social change. I am so grateful for the work and contributions of local activists and groups such as Voix Noire and Troy 4 Black Lives. Their work is inspiring me to be a more conscious and involved citizen. As a white woman with financial security, I can easily look away from the injustices faced by my black and brown neighbors. I can live my privileged life more or less in peace. But I can't really live with myself if I look away from the glaring disparities between races in our city. After a month of living in South Troy, I have seen these disparities first hand. I have witnessed a white woman scream at a black woman for innocently walking in Washington Park. I myself made the mistake of wandering in there one day when the gate was left open. Unlike this black woman, I was politely told the park was private and asked to leave. These types of micro aggressions against people of color occur daily.

Voting for this resolution is merely acknowledging that racism exists. We all know that to be true. The next steps need to be actions toward justice and transformation. We have groups led by people of color within our city outlining what those next steps should be. What we all need to do, especially this legislature, is LISTEN TO THEM.

It is very troubling to me that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you. It is a cowardly act and has no place in this moment in history when courage is needed to do the right thing.

I sincerely hope each voting member will vote in favor of this resolution and uphold the ideals of our country.

Thank-you for your time,
Julia Cadieux

July 12, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

The tragic killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police has awakened America to the racism and injustices suffered by people of color that permeate our society. The scourge of slavery continues to rear its ugly head in the form of discrimination and prejudice producing inequalities in economics, employment, education, healthcare, the justice system, and participation in the political process.

Peaceful protests throughout the country led by the Black Lives Matter movement have galvanized many in our society to act to bring about change. Indeed, 11,000 people rallied in Troy and many others throughout the Capital Region to show their support for and solidarity with BLM. It's gratifying to see so many individuals, businesses, colleges, non-profit and religious organizations coming out with statements that commit them to change. Indeed, many of the Fortune 500 have issued statements vowing to stand with Black Lives Matter, acknowledging that if Black lives don't matter, NO lives matter. Not only are they issuing supportive statements but are committing valuable resources, time and money, to righting the wrongs that stem from racism. Those corporate titans operating in Rensselaer County include the following:

Amazon
Bank of America
CVS
Home Depot
Target
Starbucks
Walmart
McDonalds
Wendy's

Others include but are not limited to:

JP Morgan Chase
Citibank
Wells Fargo
Many Wall St. Firms including Fidelity Investments and Schwab
Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Square
Microsoft
Google
The NFL

Charette, Jessica

From: juenger42m@nycap.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 6:16 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: support for resolution P/36 in support of Black Lives Matter

To the Legislature:

My name is Martha Juenger. I live at 635 Snyders Corners Rd. in Poestenkill. I am writing to express my support of resolution P/36, in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Even before the video of the killing of George Floyd, the COVID 19 pandemic has made it abundantly clear that our black and brown friends are at greater risk of death and disease for many reasons. Many of these reasons have their roots in generations-long systemic racism. Support for this resolution is to be commended as a brave act of standing with those who have long been disadvantaged.

Rensselaer County has a long history of standing by the disadvantaged, notably in the case of the Anti-Rent Riots in Hoags Corners in the 19th century. We can and should continue that history with passage of this resolution. I commend it to your support.

Sincerely,
Martha Juenger

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Charette, Jessica

From: Noreen McKee <mckeenoreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:22 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Statement in Support of Resolution 36
Attachments: Statement in Support of Res 36 (2).docx

Dear Ms. Charette,
Please add this statement of support for Resolution 36 that will be taken up by the County Legislature for a vote on Tuesday, July 14th.
Thank you.

Noreen McKee
Troy

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Charette, Jessica

From: Michael Halloran <s.michael.halloran@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution P36

As a citizen of Rensselaer County and a member of the Rensselaer County League of Women Voters, I wish to declare my enthusiastic support of Resolution P36 and the message of support of this resolution submitted by the League. It is long since past time that our nation should root out the systemic racism that infects our systems of law and governance.

Stephen M. Halloran
2218 Burdett Avenue, apt. 203
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Sara Tack <saraltack@me.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution No. P/36

July 12, 2020

To the Rensselaer County Legislature,

I'm am writing today as a 30-year resident, property owner, tax payer, and voter in Rensselaer County.

During my years residing in Rensselaer County I've lived in many diverse areas including Hoags Corners, Cropseyville and the City of Troy. Additionally I ran a business for 30 years, located in West Sand Lake and in the City of Troy, employing many Rensselaer County residents.

Rensselaer County people are good people. We are good neighbors. We all want good jobs, good schools, good healthcare, a safe and healthy place to live with food on the table. We all want to walk our neighborhoods, city streets, and country roads without fear. But we must support these basic tenets of human decency for all in our community. We must recognize and support the Black Lives Matter movement. We must end the hundreds of years of discriminatory behavior against Black people in Rensselaer County and throughout our country. We will never be united and achieve our goals until we acknowledge that Black Lives Matter and their lives are equally entitled to everything this great county has to offer.

Let's have Rensselaer County stand up to racism and stand with the millions of people, governments, organizations and businesses who have come out in support of BLM.

I urge you to vote yes on Resolution No. P/36.

Respectfully,

Sara Tack
Troy, NY

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Rensselaer

KATHY HIGH, HEAD & PROFESSOR
ARTS DEPARTMENT
204 WEST HALL

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

July 12, 2020

Please vote **YES** to Resolution P/36: "Resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for racial justice for Black people and people of color."

The tragic killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police has awakened America to the racism and injustices suffered by people of color that permeate our society. The disparities in the US are now becoming glaring as we witness escalating deaths from Covid-19 among Blacks, Indigenous people and LatinX peoples. Besides discriminations in the form of health care, we can see inequalities in economics, employment, education, healthcare, the justice system, and participation in the political process. The Black Lives Matter movement has opened our eyes to the long history of prejudices and discrimination in our country.

Earlier this summer, 11,000 people rallied in Troy and many other towns throughout the Capital Region to show their support for and solidarity with BLM. It's gratifying to see so many individuals, businesses, educational institutions, agencies and non-profit and religious organizations coming out with statements that commit them to change. Many corporations stand with Black Lives Matter, acknowledging that if Black lives don't matter, NO lives matter. Not only are they issuing supportive statements but are committing resources, time and money, to righting the wrongs that stem from racism. Those corporate titans operating in Rensselaer County include the following: Amazon Bank of America CVS Home Depot Target Starbucks Walmart McDonalds Wendy's Others include: JP Morgan Chase Citibank Wells Fargo Many Wall St. Firms including Fidelity Investments and Schwab, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Square, Microsoft, Google, The NFL, The NBA, The NHL, NASCAR, Levi's, Athleta, Lululemon, Old Navy, Gap, Nike, Coca-Cola, Converse, Adidas, Pepsi, Cola, Ben & Jerry's, Disney, Nordstrom, Warner Media (HBO, etc), Neelix, TikTok, YouTube. The list of corporate giants supporting Black Lives Matter continues to grow.

It is gratifying to see that our political leaders here in Rensselaer County have stood up to do the right thing by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. I urge the Legislature to vote "yes" to pass this resolution. It's an important first step to achieve racial justice in our community, which will improve ALL lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy High, Head of Arts and Professor of Video and New Media
518.209.6209 mobile, highk@rpi.edu

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
110 8th Street | Troy, NY 12180-3590 | Arts Department, 110 West Hall
Phone (518) 276-4778 | Fax (518) 276-4370 | www.arts.rpi.edu

Charette, Jessica

From: High, Kathy <highk@rpi.edu>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Letter in favor of Resolution P36: "Resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for racial justice for Black people and people of color."
Attachments: Resolution P36 letter_Kathy High.pdf

Please find my letter attached to the Rensselaer County Legislators asking that they vote in favor of the Resolution P/36: "Resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, calling for racial justice for Black people and people of color."

Please vote to support this resolution!

Kathy High
69 Lakeshore Drive
Averill Park, NY 12018

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Charette, Jessica

From: Dan Phiffer <dan@phiffer.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Fleming, Mark; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Public Statement for 2020-07-14 meeting

My name is Dan Phiffer and I'm a home owner living on 9th Street in Troy.

I write to this legislative body to acknowledge the efforts of Minority Leader Grimm and the other legislators who support resolution P/276. According to Pew Research [1] they are among sixty-seven percent of Americans who now support Black Lives Matter and I regard calls for racial justice as obvious, given recent trends in public opinion.

That resolution's acknowledgement of structural racism and its appeal to "advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism" is especially important. It underscores that it is you policy-makers, not police officers, who bear the most responsibility when we see injustice within our criminal law system.

I am also writing to condemn the reactionary gesture by other County legislators to bury that resolution with exhortations of support for law enforcement. I am disappointed in your efforts to silence the one resolution for racial justice with an overeager celebration of our police. That cynical gesture confirms that you, too, understand that so-called justice system to be structurally racist in nature.

I am disappointed at your defensive fragility, while I allow that we should recognize the limitations of your collective experiences. Let's pause for a moment. Stop and look around at your fellow legislators. Who is **not** in this room? Which demographics are now excluded from these deliberations, right now? Us white people have benefited from 400 years of over-privilege, so I can understand how acknowledging that fact, and its many implications, may seem threatening.

If the police are not inherently racist, then it should be effortless to both declare the importance of ending white privilege and the myth of white supremacy without regarding those gestures as threats to the administration of criminal law. Your reactionary response is very revealing. The deflection away from a discussion of racial injustice is paired with an eagerness to praise our police. That pairing further confirms the outrageous structural racism that broadly afflicts this country, and reifies white supremacy as it manifests here in Rensselaer County.

On April 30, 2020 Sergeant Randall French passed away from COVID-19. Twelve days later, at the May regular meeting, the legislative agenda included important matters such as commending a high school wrestling team and recognizing June as National Dairy Month.

In June, an estimated crowd of 11,000 peacefully demonstrated at the Troy Rally for Black Lives, organized by Justice for Dahmeek, who are now called Troy 4 Black Lives. Two days after that massive, historic rally, you met again and declined to consider a resolution in memory of Sergeant French.

It has now been 75 days and there have been two regular legislative meetings since April 30th. It is clear to me that the timing of resolution P/274 has less to do with honoring Sergeant French's memory than with using that memory as a cudgel, further associating his name with police impunity. You do his family a disservice to insert that resolution as a defense against a consideration of P/276. Capitalizing on his memory for political convenience is disgusting and should be condemned by all.

[1]: <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/06/12/amid-protests-majorities-across-racial-and-ethnic-groups-express-support-for-the-black-lives-matter-movement/>

Charette, Jessica

From: Bob Blackmon <still.life.guy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:17 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Fwd: The Black Lives Matter Resolution

I'm writing to support the Black Lives Matter Resolution (#36) currently pending in the Rensselaer County Legislator. Given all the events of recent months, even years, across the country and here in our county, it's important that we all speak loudly and strongly for our citizens of color.

One of the common arguments against the BLM movement is that "All Lives Matter." That is in fact true, but such a statement misses the point. "All" of us have not been enslaved, abused, discriminated against for hundreds of years in this country. It's people of color who have suffered, and now is the time to make a strong statement that we support the BLM movement.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Bob Blackmon
21 Ahern Ave
Troy, NY 12180

--

Oil Paintings by Bob Blackmon
Blackmon Studio in Clare Cottage
Associate Member, Oil Painters of America

Charette, Jessica

From: Lori Lawrence <lorilawrenceart@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 8:30 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Pass resolution in support of Black Lives Matter

To: Rensselaer County Legislators,

We must begin the process of changing our society practically, so that our housing, educational opportunities, salaries and hourly wages, healthcare, justice system and such "small" things such as a local store that carries healthy produce and groceries are available equally in our society.

We can no longer speak words without action. This will be difficult, as racism is embedded in so many of us without our even knowing it.

Rensselaer must be part of this action. It is time to begin to improve all lives. I urge you to pass this resolution and start action NOW.

Thank you,
Lori Lawrence
resident of Rensselaer County.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Robert Matthews <matthrob@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 4:59 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter Resolution

42 Pine Bowl Road
Wynantskill, New York 12198

July 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature:

The Black Lives Matters Movement (BLM) has recently taken an important stand in Rensselaer County. The spring BLM demonstration in response to the killing of Floyd George attracted over 11,000 demonstrators to the city of Troy. Our county stands on the precipice of tremendous change in our culture. Many of our citizens believe now is the time to change and to begin addressing the long-standing inequities of Black people in our society.

Rensselaer County has had a long history of standing up for Black Americans. The Underground Railroad safe houses scattered throughout the city of Troy and the county are tremendous testaments to the forward, clarion thinking of our ancestors.

I urge you to support Resolution 36.

Sincerely,
Robert Matthews

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Charette, Jessica

From: Mary Frances Sabo <maryfsabo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Grant, Thomas; Hoffman, Kelly; lfiacoo@rensko.com; Bayly, Robert; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter resolution

As a resident of Rensselaer County and an elected official in the town of North Greenbush, I thank Minority Leader Grimm and Legislators Doran and Fleming for bravely sponsoring this resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and call upon the legislators who represent my home community of North Greenbush to vote in favor. This would not be a radical step-Legislators Grant, Hoffman, Fiacco and Bayly would be standing with large corporations that operate in the communities they represent such as McDonald, CVS, and Starbucks that have made statements and committed significant time and resources to BLM. As my family and I attended Troy's peaceful June 7 demonstration in support of Black Lives Matter, I recognized many of my neighbors and friends from North Greenbush marching in solidarity against the racism and injustice that the black community faces. Legislators, put aside the politics and vote unanimously in favor of the Black Lives Matter resolution. Your constituents are watching.

Sincerely,

Mary Frances Sabo
Councilperson, North Greenbush

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Charette, Jessica

From: Diane Bell <dianehbell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution denouncing systemic racism

Dear Chairman Stammel,

As a citizen and member of the Rensselaer County League of Women Voters, I wholeheartedly endorse the resolution currently before the Rensselaer County Legislature supporting the goals of the Black Lives Matter movement, namely the elimination of systemic racism in all its manifestations. I urge the Legislature to adopt this resolution and to share it with Governor Cuomo and our legislators at the state and national levels.

Diane Bell
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Noreen McKee <mckeenoreen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:51 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Statement on Resolution 36

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

The tragic killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police has awakened America to the racism and injustices suffered by people of color that permeate our society. The scourge of slavery continues to rear its ugly head in the form of discrimination and prejudice producing inequalities in economics, employment, education, healthcare, the justice system, and participation in the political process.

Peaceful protests throughout the country led by the Black Lives Matter movement have galvanized many in our society to act to bring about change. Indeed, 11,000 people rallied in Troy and many others throughout the Capital Region to show their support for and solidarity with BLM. It's gratifying to see so many individuals, businesses, colleges, non-profit and religious organizations coming out with statements that commit them to change. Indeed, many of the Fortune 500 have issued statements vowing to stand with Black Lives Matter, acknowledging that if Black lives don't matter, NO lives matter. Not only are they issuing supportive statements but are committing valuable resources, time and money, to righting the wrongs that stem from racism. Those corporate titans operating in Rensselaer County include the following:

Amazon
Bank of America
CVS
Home Depot
Target
Starbucks
Walmart
McDonalds
Wendy's

Others include but are not limited to:

JP Morgan Chase
Citibank
Wells Fargo
Many Wall St. Firms including Fidelity Investments and Schwab
Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Square
Microsoft
Google
The NFL
The NBA
The NHL

NASCAR
Levi's
Athlete
Lululemon
Old Navy
Gap
Nike
Coca-Cola
Converse
Adidas
Pepsi Cola
Ben & Jerry's
Disney
Nordstrom
HBO

The list of corporate giants supporting Black Lives Matter continues to grow.

And It is also gratifying to see that our political leaders here in Rensselaer County have stood up to do the right thing by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. I urge the Legislature to vote "yes" to pass this resolution. It's an important step to achieve racial justice, which will improve **ALL** lives.

Thank you,

Noreen McKee
Troy

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Charette, Jessica

From: Barbara Nelson <nelsondufel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:06 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: pgrimm@renscoo.com; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Barb Nelson, and I live in the city/town of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing **in support of Resolution 36**

While I don't think this resolution in support of BLM is sufficient action in and of itself, it is **a basic necessary action** in the face of continued injustice and violence against Black residents in our county and in our country.

In my work as a housing advocate **I am witness to the injustice of poverty.** I am tired of treating the symptoms of racism. **You can help heal** the disease.

I urge You to recognize the simple fact that this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

It is in your power, and it is in fact your duty as an elected official to take this simple step toward healing our nation.

Thank You

Barb Nelson

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Charette, Jessica

From: Michelle Polacinski <michellepolacinski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for Black Lives Matter

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Michelle Polacinski and I am a resident of Troy, NY in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, and specifically in support of Resolution 36.

As a resident of downtown Troy, **I was amazed to see 11,000 people show up peacefully to support respecting and honoring Black lives, especially remembering those that have been harmed by the hands of police.** The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened many to the injustices in our country that harm Black people, including in Rensselaer County. **We have also seen injustice in our own community, with the murders of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald.**

I have personally experienced a very strong community here in downtown Troy. It's definitely my favorite part of living here. People stand up for each other and hold each other up in times of dismay. The pandemic has brought us even closer as we share garden harvests and kind words. **Some of my neighbors are Black and they, too, have been an important part of our community. However, they have been treated differently by their landlords and by the police.**

I recently heard that the **Chairman pressured and threatened other legislators to remove their names in support of this resolution.** This is not only anti-progress, but it **actively harms our democracy and justice within our government.** To remove your name does not reflect the interests of those who elected you, but also to those who pay your salary with the taxes we pay every year. Please recognize the facts laid out in this resolution and know that they are not revelatory, not even close. We need to move forward and be strong, **supporting members of our community, especially our Black neighbors, who are still treated differently in July 2020.**

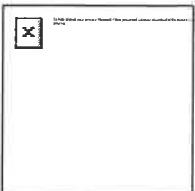
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Michelle Polacinski
Story Producer, COVID POV
Swirl Studios

Director and Executive Producer, Floxed



Strangest Sea Films, Inc.

Charette, Jessica

From: Judy Meyer <jdymyr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Support for P/36 re Black Lives Matter Movement

Chairman Stammel and Rensselaer County Legislators,

As thousands took to the streets in peaceful protest, the killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police raised awareness throughout our country about the systemic racism that continues to exist in our society. Black people and people of color do not have equal access to economic opportunity, quality healthcare, good schools, adequate housing, and the voting booth. In addition, our criminal justice system, structured to discriminate on the basis of color, requires major reforms. The League of Women Voters believes that for all lives to matter, Black lives must matter. We, as a society, need to actively work to break down the barriers that allow some to languish while others prosper. Thus, we applaud the Rensselaer County Legislature for introducing a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and urge all legislators to approve its passage.

Judy Meyer Shirley Buel
Co President Co President

League of Women Voters of Rensselaer County

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Charette, Jessica

From: Raye G <rachamin12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black lives matter and police violence

County Legislators,

My name is Rachel, and I live in Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. This resolution is a good first step in support of the BLM movement, and the presence of 11,000 protestors in Troy in June helps prove that the community is largely in support.

The work to dismantle the racism ingrained in our society is vast, and we need to begin it now. I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are not new information. They merely state what historians already know and tell us: that this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Rachel Glick
124 25th St, Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Laura Rabinow <laura.rabinow@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comments for 7.14 County Legislature Meeting

Dear County Clerk,

Please find below my comments for tomorrow's meeting of the County Legislature. Thank you in advance for your work to prepare the public comments, particularly in light of COVID-19 and the precautionary measures in place, so as to help ensure that the voices of the public are heard.

Regards, Laura

Laura Rabinow

Comments for 7.14 County Legislature Meeting

County Legislators,

My name is Laura Rabinow and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of Black Lives Matter.

I was recently heartened to see 11,000 people come out in my hometown to support Black lives - to not only say that they matter, but that they are loved, they honored, and they are sacred - and to urge our representatives to make concrete structural changes to address systemic racism and the attendant violence perpetrated on Black family members, friends, and neighbors.

Rensselaer County's past and present history is not apart from this structural racism and violence. In this county we have seen Black men killed and harmed by police brutality. In this county we have seen immigrants of color taken away from their young children by ICE in cooperation with the County Sheriff. And, in this county we still do not - in 2020 - have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do, and should have done yesterday. And, I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory.

To vote against this resolution is - quite literally according to its own language - to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force and brutality in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if that law wasn't built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Susan Price <susan_r_price@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Black Lives Matter

Legislators,

My name is Susan McElroy and I live in the town of Troy.

I am writing in support of resolution 36, and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. While I do not believe the resolution completely addresses all the issues associated with systemic racism and how it effects our communities, I believe resolution 36 is something we could do in support of Black Lives Matter Movement in our community now.

I beg you to educate yourself, as I have, on the continued racial injustice and inequity in our communities. I plead you to pledge to make a difference now by passing resolution 36. I have seen the division in the community and believe this is the path needed for unity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Susan McElroy

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Charette, Jessica

From: Jason Greco <jsngreco@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:06 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36

I am writing in support of Resolution 36. Please read and consider these comments.



County Legislature-Resolution 36 - July 2020

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County Legislators,

My name is Jason Greco, and I live in the city/town of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I like to think that I live in a town, city and county that wants to be on the right side of history. I like to think that the place that I live is striving to make sure that all of its citizens have the law equally applied to them and that Black Americans can live in my community without fear.

Resolution 36 is literally the least we could do to make sure we take a step in that direction. While I don't think this resolution or any resolution in support of BLM is an endpoint, it should not be a controversial vote or require counter measures to support the police.

11,000 people came out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. Troy was not alone as here have been numerous other examples of rallies around this county to bring attention to the murder of George Floyd, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color. However, these injustices perpetrated by police around the country is also a local problem. In Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

It is necessary for our legislature to recognize what the majority of Americans have recognized as a result of BLM's efforts, Black lives matter and we are beyond the breaking point where serious reforms need to be addressed in regards to policing in this country.

To vote against this resolution is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I would like to thank the legislators who are taking a risk and taking a stance in this historical moment. This simple act of support places you on the right side of history. Those that oppose will be remembered as enablers of the broken, racist system that we have had for centuries. I hope that the legislature will pass this resolution in support of Black Lives Matter and against white supremacy and systemic racism. I would be proud to live in a county that is willing to do so.

Jason Greco
63 Mellon Ave
Troy, NY

Charette, Jessica

From: Gavin McIntyre <mcintyre.gavin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment in Support of the Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Gavin McIntyre and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County, New York. I'm writing to you in support of the *Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color*.

The tragic murder of George Floyd has mobilized communities across the country to fight structural injustice to ensure that all Black and Brown people can live and thrive. I was inspired to be one of the 11,000 attendees of the Troy Black Lives Matter rally and was reminded that while we mourned George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, issues of racial injustice are alive within our own back yard. The experiences of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald are just two examples in our own community of Black men who were harmed by police brutality. Structural racism is insidious, and it is time to expose it, dismantle our oppressive systems, and build a more equitable society.

Structural racism is evident in Rensselaer's local politics—while Black residents make up almost 20 percent of the city's population, there are no Black council members.

Structural racism is evident in our rates of homeownership—the gap in homeownership rates among white and Black residents is a staggering 40 percent.

Structural racism is evident in our school district—Black children represent 31.0 percent of Troy School District's population but account for 47.5 percent of in-school suspensions, 49.2 percent of out-of-school suspensions, and 61.1 percent of expulsions.

We know what the work is. For our community to thrive, we all must thrive. I'm grateful to have Troy 4 Black Lives working to outline what the next steps should be to provide justice for all. I recommend you listen to their demands and take action.

I urge this body to recognize the facts laid out in the *Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement*. We have a golden opportunity to rectify the wrongs of our racist history and build a stronger Rensselaer that works for all of us. This resolution is one small step to building a better, more equitable Rensselaer. I urge you to vote in support of this resolution.

Thank you for your time and energy.

Sincerely,

Gavin McIntyre
16 Grandview Avenue
Troy, New York 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Nicholas Laviano <troypbapresident@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution G36

Good evening everyone,

My name is Nicholas Laviano. I am currently the Troy PBA President, have been a police officer for over 10.5 years and life long resident of Troy NY for over 33 years. I am writing to you all about resolution G36. It took me some time to think about what I wanted to say about this resolution. Some of you I spoke in person about it and others via email. I read the first draft of the resolution and the amended version. I wanted to see both sides of the argument here and then that's when it hit me on what this resolution does. It creates side as It divides us, not unites us.

This piece of paper will not bring back George Floyd nor will it bring peace to his family. This piece of paper will not undue the atrocities of slavery and racism that have stained our country's legacy. This piece of paper will not protect the good law enforcement officers who go out there day and night, putting their lives on the line for complete strangers in an attempt to make this city and county a safer place for all.

What this paper does do is divide us all at a time where we desperately need unity. On one side those in support of it and on the other, those opposed to it. This resolution polarizes us all with each side passionately arguing about why they are right. I have come to the conclusion that they are both wrong. I have also come to the conclusion that I have been wrong in the past. When I came out in opposition of Troy's sanctuary city resolution I divided our community further. I wasn't alone in dividing us but I am man enough to admit now that I took the wrong path. I should have attempted to bring us all together and I missed that opportunity and I am truly sorry to all.

In 33 years I've never seen our country so divided, so politicized and so polarized. I asked someone the other day, "where's our Bobby Kennedy?" Now more than ever we need someone like him. After learning of Martin Luther King's assassination, Bobby made a passionate speech to the masses that gathered in Indianapolis.

"What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or they be black.

We can do well in this country. We will have difficult times; we've had difficult times in the past; we will have difficult times in the future. It is not the end of violence; it is not the end of lawlessness; it is not the end of disorder.

But the vast majority of white people and the vast majority of black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings who abide in our land.

Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world. Let us dedicate ourselves to that, and say a prayer for our country and for our people."

I am neither in favor or opposed to this resolution. To me this is just a piece of paper that only divides us all further and will pay no attention to either side and will not make Troy or Rensselaer county safer. What we need now is action. In high school, while playing for County Legislator Bob Burns he told us you do not need to talk during the game and that we will let our pads do the talking. Well, I call upon you all to stop talking and let your pads do the talking.

Thank you and God Bless you all.

--

Nicholas Laviano
Troy PBA President
P.O. Box 1041 Troy NY 12180
518-271-1637

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Charette, Jessica

From: Art's Gmail Account <artphiffer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:46 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for P/276/20
Attachments: A Phiffer's support of P27620.docx; ATT00001.htm

County Legislators,

Please include the included and attached letter of support for Resolution P/276/20 to be read at your next meeting.

County Legislators,

I am Art Phiffer, a Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for resolution P/276/20. My wife and I are relatively new to Rensselaer County, having recently bought a house in the Speigletown section of Schaghticoke (12182). We were introduced to political involvement in June as we learned about and participated in the Rally for Black Lives in Troy. During that day, we encountered many people of all races, who included us with respect and gentleness, both protestors and police. We handed out water and food to those who were marching. I had discussions with several people, giving me insights into different points of view, broadening my perspective on race and racism.

My wife and I have used our retirement to volunteer in organizations that serve the public good. We have helped out in a homeless rehousing organization and have volunteered as a math teacher in our local elementary school. We are therefore concerned when our county representatives fail to support the entire community. As a retired white teacher, I have not experienced the excruciatingly difficult situations that police officers encounter, attempting to resolve life-altering dilemmas. Likewise, I have not been familiar with the feeling of fear for my life, as people of color have faced, when confronted with law enforcement. Part of my white privilege has provided me with a life experience in which I have learned to look for protection and help from people who wear the badge. I can't imagine a life in which I would be unsure of my safety if I was pulled over for a traffic stop, in which I might lose my life because the policeman is afraid of me or regards me with revulsion.

I am overwhelmed with sorrow for the officers who have dedicated their lives to defending us all, regardless of race or religion, when their fellow officers destroy their reputation through their despicable violence against the very people they pledge to defend. I am therefore compelled to support the resolution number P/242/20, which acknowledges the restraint and support shown by the Troy Police Department on June 7th.

At the same time, I know that all lives can't matter unless Black Lives Matter. Because I want all my brothers and sisters of different skin color to know that I desire their safety, I support resolution number P/276/20. Anti-racism action is essential, but sometimes difficult for people of my skin color. Even if we have good intentions, we need to be informed about how to be effective in our words and action by the individuals we are trying to defend. Of course, if racism is tolerated and people of color don't receive equal treatment under the law, words don't carry much credence. We need to modify our public policy and rhetoric to make sure that none of the valuable members of our society are marginalized or forced to live in fear. Inclusion of input by members of Black Lives Matter in our attempts to improve our discourse, laws and practices will be essential for there to be real solutions to our problems.

Please show your concern for those who have been marginalized by passing resolution P/276/20!

Thank you for your work on my behalf and your attention,
Art Phiffer

1 Brielle Dr.
Troy, NY 12182

County Legislators,

I am Art Phiffer, a Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for resolution P/276/20. My wife and I are relatively new to Rensselaer County, having recently bought a house in the Speigletown section of Schaghticoke (12182). We were introduced to political involvement in June as we learned about and participated in the Rally for Black Lives in Troy. During that day, we encountered many people of all races, who included us with respect and gentleness, both protestors and police. We handed out water and food to those who were marching. I had discussions with several people, giving me insights into different points of view, broadening my perspective on race and racism.

My wife and I have used our retirement to volunteer in organizations that serve the public good. We have helped out in a homeless rehousing organization and have volunteered as a math teacher in our local elementary school. We are therefore concerned when our county representatives fail to support the entire community. As a retired white teacher, I have not experienced the excruciatingly difficult situations that police officers encounter, attempting to resolve life-altering dilemmas. Likewise, I have not been familiar with the feeling of fear for my life, as people of color have faced, when confronted with law enforcement. Part of my white privilege has provided me with a life experience in which I have learned to look for protection and help from people who wear the badge. I can't imagine a life in which I would be unsure of my safety if I was pulled over for a traffic stop, in which I might lose my life because the policeman is afraid of me or regards me with revulsion.

I am overwhelmed with sorrow for the officers who have dedicated their lives to defending us all, regardless of race or religion, when their fellow officers destroy their reputation through their despicable violence against the very people they pledge to defend. I am therefore compelled to support the resolution number P/242/20, which acknowledges the restraint and support shown by the Troy Police Department on June 7th.

At the same time, I know that all lives can't matter unless Black Lives Matter. Because I want all my brothers and sisters of different skin color to know that I desire their safety, I support resolution number P/276/20. Anti-racism action is essential, but sometimes difficult for people of my skin color. Even if we have good intentions, we need to be informed about how to be effective in our words and action by the individuals we are trying to defend. Of course, if racism is tolerated and people of color don't receive equal treatment under the law, words don't carry much credence. We need to modify our public policy and rhetoric to make sure that none of the valuable members of our society are marginalized or forced to live in fear. Inclusion of input by members of Black Lives Matter in our attempts to improve our discourse, laws and practices will be essential for there to be real solutions to our problems.

Please show your concern for those who have been marginalized by passing resolution P/276/20!

Thank you for your work on my behalf and your attention,
Art Phiffer

Charette, Jessica

From: Jayne <jgoodermote1@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:24 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Support our police

To whom it may concern;

As a lifelong resident of Rensselaer County, a homeowner and also a business owner in Troy, it is incredibly concerning to even consider jeopardizing our Police Departments in any way. With the recent rise in crime I think we all know that the last thing that should be done is to handicap or defund our police departments. We rely on our Police Departments for so many things and to cripple them in anyway would be detrimental to all residents of Rensselaer County. In fact it's terrifying to even think about it and to support any marxist groups that have caused so much chaos and destruction nationwide, is downright dangerous.

The Rensselaer County police departments are not those 3 police officers of Minneapolis in the George Floyd case. We love our police here in Rensselaer County and depend on them. They are our neighbors, family, friends and customers, they have spent years working to build relationships in the communities that they work and live in. And last but not least, let's not forget that with the current events there is not much incentive right now to even become a police officer with everything that's going on Nationwide. They not only have to deal with things a normal person only sees in their nightmares, it's a tough job to begin with for very little pay. Then add in a lack of support from the government and community? Pretty soon there will be no police officers because who would want to subject themselves these horrible things? They put their lives on the line every day for us, so we owe it to them and beg of you to support them in every possible way and not to make it even worse.

Thank you for your time
J. Goodermote

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Charette, Jessica

From: Mary Hanley <mhanley219@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:16 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: I am not for defunding the police

Additional training and no racism but NO to defunding the police.
We need their protection and they should be treated with the respect
they deserve.

Mary Hanley

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Charette, Jessica

From: Adam Harbour <drumfanatic94@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:16 AM
To: Charette, Jessica

Take NYC as an example. Defunding the police does not protect ANY lives. criminals will run rampant (more so than now). Wanting to help criminals even a little bit is tyranny and a spit in the face to any and all victims, no matter what race. Disgusting to even think of punishing all for the actions of a few. Vote no to defunding police!

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Charette, Jessica

From: Dylan <dylanrees@protonmail.ch>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:53 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comments for June 14th Meeting

County Legislators,

My name is Dr. James Dylan Rees, and I live in Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

The crowd of 11,000 strong that marched in our city on June 7th constitutes a call for action on police brutality in the strongest terms, joining other such calls around the country. Several small cities in our region have begun to respond, such as Utica, which released its police personnel records, and Hudson, which instituted a police hiring freeze and a reduction in the police budget. A resolution in support of Black Lives matter is a feeble response by comparison, but it is the least that can be done in support of the movement to end racialized police brutality. It must be followed by swift action in support of the demands of Troy 4 Black Lives on both the city and county level.

It is also remarkably shameful that the Chairman chose to strongarm and threaten those that signed onto this resolution. This is not only anti-democratic; it is also an insult to George Floyd, Edson Thevenin, and others who have lost their lives due to easily preventable racialized police violence.

Let the vigil occurring during the County Legislature meeting be a testament to the fact that we are watching the words and actions of the County on this issue, and will exert increasing amount of political pressure if no action is taken.

Sincerely,
Dylan Rees

County Legislators,

My name is _____, and I live in the city/town of _____ in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Sent from ProtonMail, encrypted email based in Switzerland.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

Charette, Jessica

From: Kimberly Jensen <kim.a.reynolds@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:34 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support for Black Lives Matter in Rensselaer County

County Legislators,

My name is Kim Jensen and I live in the Town of Brunswick in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen and look at our county through an objective lens, rather than wishing and hoping that all lives are valued the same. All lives can't matter until black lives matter. We must prove this by searching for and eliminating systemic racism in our County.

I am a 30-something white woman. I have never and will never experience the racism that many of our Black and people of color neighbors have. But I can see the impact racism has on our county. There have been too many times that I have seen white supremacy signs, flyers, stickers, littering the city of Troy. Too many lives damaged by police, to the point that I've heard people I care for say they won't call Troy Police Department for help, because they can't trust the police here. And I know that what I see and hear barely scratches the surface. We have to listen to our neighbors and hear with open hearts their experiences. We need to stop assuming the best of intentions from those we've placed in positions of power, both our elected officials and our officers. One step we can take to do this is to remove the concept of police investigating police when an officer is accused of overstepping their power or is involved in an incident that leads to serious bodily harm or death of an individual. Instituting an in-depth review board, comprised of community members and a majority that represents those groups most impacted by police violence is a start. Looking for ways to remove police presence from situations that do not require police intervention is another. This could include mental health or wellness checks being performed by a mental health professional or social worker, and working with treatment programs to keep individuals who are involved with illegal drugs from being incarcerated; which may include mental health and substance abuse resources and counselors, inpatient and outpatient programs, social workers to bring together a "health home" for an individual in treatment. Changing the focus from incarceration to a persons whole wellness, access to housing and medical care, education and safety, meeting their basic needs so that they can give their best to our community. There are so many things we as a County could do to change how we deal with many of the scenarios in which an officer is currently responding. Taking the stigma of a police officer out of the situation, the knowledge that a firearm or other weapon is present, the fear and uncertainty that people feel around officers, could help de-escalate tense situations and allow for real healing to occur in our communities.

It also strikes me that we should be asking more of our police recruits than we currently do, as far as education and background. A lawyer, who practices law, is educated for 7 years, and must pass a grueling exam in order to be admitted to the bar. An officer in Troy, who is tasked with upholding these same laws, as of September 14, 2019, is required to be a high school graduate or possess a GED, be between 20 and 35, maintain a driver's license, meet physical requirements, and pass (score 70 or higher) a civil service exam covering situational judgement, language fluency, information ordering and language sequencing, problem sensitivity and

reasoning, selective attention, visualization, and spatial orientation. None of these things require any specialized knowledge or educational background in law, law enforcement, criminal justice, or any other area surrounding laws. On the job training can not be enough to allow these individuals to correctly interpret or uphold our laws. I don't necessarily believe they need to be held to the same educational standards as practicing lawyers, but they should be required to have more in the way of experience and education than an applicant at Price Chopper as a Floral Delivery Professional (just no basic skills civil service test at Price Chopper).

We must do better by our neighbors. Everything above, and the actions that the Troy 4 Black Lives group is asking for, is to help move our County out of its racist, systemic or otherwise, past, and into a future where all individuals are valued and treated with decency and respect. To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

This resolution must be passed, even to just acknowledge that there is a problem with racism in our community. The actions still must be worked on, but accepting and identifying the problem that faces us is the only way to start this conversation. We cannot solve a problem that our leaders refuse to name and look in the face.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Kim Jensen

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Charette, Jessica

From: elizabeth press <press.elizabeth@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:11 AM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Letter in support of Resolution 36 for July 14 meeting

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Elizabeth Press. I live in Troy, NY.

I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. This resolution is a necessary first step to begin the work toward racial justice as a county. After the murder of George Floyd, there has been a wave of awakening around racial justice flooding this country. Resolution 36 acknowledges structural inequalities and structural racism and how they have impacted Black and Brown people. I urge the Legislature to vote "yes" and pass this resolution. Tonight, you have several resolutions up for vote to honor the Troy Police Department and the Rensselaer County Sheriff for their handling of the June 7 Troy for Black Lives Rally. Let's talk about that rally for Black lives in Troy organized successfully by grassroots activists! 11,000 people showed up! How can you not honor their voices? Vote yes on 36. 11,000 people showed up in Troy, NY in support of Black lives and to ask us to look at the systemic problems we have in this country. This is not to be overlooked. When was the last time we saw people show up in Rensselaer County in this way? As white people, we need to listen not get defensive about our racist past. We don't need you as our representatives to hold fast toward a racist future. Shame on County Legislators Carole Weaver, Bill Barnes and Erin Sullivan-Teta for taking their names off the resolution. We need to do better than this. You need to do better than this! Represent us! Since that march, local organizers like Troy 4 Black Lives and All of Us Community Action Group have done some of the hard work toward next steps. Please sign this resolution tonight and then listen to them as they help guide a path forward! Please do not write this off as simply an anti-police resolution. This is a step toward moving Rensselaer county forward for all of our residents. And, for those of you talking about all lives matter, this can only truly be realized when all Black lives matter.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Press
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Francine Godgart <frangodgart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:42 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter!
Attachments: blm.docx

July 13, 2020

My name is Francine Godgart and I live at 2736 Doelner Circle in Castleton in Rensselaer County.

I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

July 13, 2020

My name is Francine Godgart and I live at 2736 Doelner Circle in Castleton in Rensselaer County.

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I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Charette, Jessica

From: Mark Stevens <markmws56@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:14 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Defunding police

I support the police of Rensselaer County for the great job they do and am totally opposed to Defunding them. Mark Stevens - Resident of Rensselaer County

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Charette, Jessica

From: Holley Davis <holleyendavis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:51 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Comment in Support of the Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Holley Davis and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County, New York. I'm writing to you in support of the *Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color*.

The tragic murder of George Floyd has mobilized communities across the country to fight structural injustice to ensure that all Black and Brown people can live and thrive. I was inspired to be one of the 11,000 attendees of the Troy Black Lives Matter rally and was reminded that while we mourned George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, issues of racial injustice are alive within our own back yard. The experiences of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald are just two examples in our own community of Black men who were harmed by police brutality. Structural racism is insidious, and it is time to expose it, dismantle our oppressive systems, and build a more equitable society.

Structural racism is evident in Rensselaer's local politics—while Black residents make up almost 20 percent of the city's population, there are no Black council members.

Structural racism is evident in our rates of homeownership—the gap in homeownership rates among white and Black residents is a staggering 40 percent.

Structural racism is evident in our school district—Black children represent 31.0 percent of Troy School District's population but account for 47.5 percent of in-school suspensions, 49.2 percent of out-of-school suspensions, and 61.1 percent of expulsions.

We know what the work is. For our community to thrive, we all must thrive. I'm grateful to have Troy 4 Black Lives working to outline what the next steps should be to provide justice for all. I recommend you listen to their demands and take action.

I urge this body to recognize the facts laid out in the *Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement*. We have a golden opportunity to rectify the wrongs of our racist history and build a stronger Rensselaer that works for all of us. This resolution is one small step to building a better, more equitable Rensselaer. I urge you to vote in support of this resolution.

Thank you for your time and energy.

Sincerely,

Holley Davis
16 Grandview Avenue
Troy, New York 12180

--

Holley EN Davis
631.901.6201

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Charette, Jessica

From: Erin Lennox <lennox@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:47 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Support for resolution 36

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Erin Lennox and I live at 63 Pinewoods Ave in Troy. I am writing in support of resolution 36, and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I do not believe the resolution completely addresses all the issues associated with systemic racism, I believe it is a necessary step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black community members, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is, and we are lucky to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be.

I hope you will choose to support this resolution, as to vote against it is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Erin Lennox

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Charette, Jessica

From: Seth Leibson <sethleibson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:32 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support Resolution 36 and Black Lives

Dear County Legislators,

My name is Seth Leibson, and I live in at 47 Mellon Ave in Brunswick, born and raised in Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and the Movement for Black Lives.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

So please, listen.

Sincerely,
Seth Leibson

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July 13, 2020

Dear Rensselaer County Legislature:

I write today to request your support of "The Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color," Resolution P-36.

While it would be easy to declare that "all lives matter," that mentality ignores the structural disparities and racism that have been perpetuated in this nation since its founding. It was not that long ago that segregation in stores, on buses, in restaurants, and in schools was widely accepted, even in the North. It was also not that long ago that poll taxes, grandfather clauses, and literacy tests were used to keep People of Color from voting.

You could argue that those examples are ancient history. However, current forms of voter suppression, such as requiring IDs or reducing polling locations in minority communities, are just as damaging. These voter suppression methods continue to target People of Color and poor communities. The fact is that persistent and perpetual systemic racism exists, and we need to change. And we must continue to advocate for that change, as it is literally a matter of life and death for the Black members of our community.

This systemic racism is found in all aspects of life, especially and including in education and in health care. In education, People of Color are less likely to graduate from high school. Those that do graduate from high school are less likely to go on to higher education, and those who go on to college are less likely to graduate. That lack of education impacts on jobs and income, which then limits access to appropriate housing, access to decent food, and access to health insurance. People of Color historically have less access to medical care, have higher rates of chronic diseases, and ultimately have worse health outcomes. We know that women of Color have much higher rates of maternal deaths in pregnancy and childbirth and less medical intervention for cardiovascular disease and for breast cancer. The impact of COVID-19 on People of Color is not an outlier, but just another example of systemic health disparities.

Additionally, "all lives matter," when used as a counter-point to "black lives matter," ignores the intention of the Black Lives Matter movement. The truth is that the Black community, as well as other People of Color, face a far different reality in all facets of life than the White community. This reality is comprised, in part, of inequitable treatment that conveys the message that Black lives do not matter. The goal of the Black Lives Matter movement is for all lives to matter; however, all lives cannot matter until Black lives do. Until our society, especially the elected representatives of our communities, can recognize and dismantle the inequitable conditions that face the Black community, all lives cannot matter. We continue to have discrimination in this nation based on race and ethnicity. Supporting this resolution is a needed step in addressing this discrimination; however, it is only the first step.

I have lived in Rensselaer county for almost 35 years, and I have raised my children in this county. I know that my community values its members. To reflect these important values, we must recognize that the Black members of our community, as well as Black communities across the country, need our support in their hour of need.

For these reasons, I request your support of “The Black Lives Matter Movement, Calling for Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color,” Resolution P-36. There are Black people in each and every community in Rensselaer County. Please proclaim, explicitly and unequivocally, that your Black constituents’ lives matter to you.

Sincerely,

Robert Martiniano, DrPH

Charette, Jessica

From: Branda Miller <milleb@rpi.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:16 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Please support Resolution 36, Black Lives Matter and a Better World in Rensselaer County

To the Rensselaer County Legislators,

As a resident of Stephentown in Rensselaer County, I write this letter to personally request your consideration in support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is an important step in addressing the institutional racism which is integrated into the fabric of our lives. I love Rensselaer County, and know that this resolution can support the increased quality of life in our county. This is a valuable way to acknowledge the acute experience of racism and violence against our Black residents, friends and neighbors, and coming together from all walks of life to transcend political division and work together to acknowledge how much work we still have to do. Troy 4 Black Lives and other local groups are working for racial justice right here in our local communities. Please listen with open minds and open hearts.

I am a Professor of Media Arts at RPI, and the Arts and Education Coordinator at Media Alliance. I have been a resident of Rensselaer County for 3 decades, and understand this moment we are in together to be an opportunity to work towards a more just society. By recognizing the existence of racism and the debilitating effects it has on all aspects of society, we can work together to stand up to oppression and make positive change in our county. We can build bridges to bring diverse communities together, offering positive outcomes for today and future generations.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. Please honor our democracy and help to fight the divisions amongst us.

I urge you to recognize the basic truths presented in this resolution: that this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today.

To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

It is my sincere hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves. Let us rise up and join together to reach towards the ideals of our great nation and great county.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Branda Miller
Stephentown Resident
Professor, RPI

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ivy Hest <ivyhest@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:12 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Ivy Hest, and I live in Brunswick in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a symbolic but necessary step to acknowledge the racism in our country and county. Over 11,000 people came to Troy to support Black Lives, and yet our county and local governments have not yet taken meaningful action to address the demands made by Troy 4 Black Lives (formerly Justice for Dahmeek). As county servants, I believe it important to listen to the 11,000 of your constituents calling for real steps to be taken to stop the militarization and brutality of the police and the county's continued xenophobic, racist partnership with ICE.

There are 4 generations of my family who live and work in this county and have been here for almost 40 years. My spouse and I moved here three years ago, attracted to the diverse community where we hope to raise a family. But the safety of that family can only come if the county invests in supporting Black lives.

This resolution simply calls for an acknowledgment of historical systemic racism. It seems to me like this kind of acknowledgment is nothing compared to the actual harm this historically racist system has done to Black, Indigenous, and People of color. And yet it is horrifying to me that there is even a question as to whether something without any teeth will pass. That the Chairman has used his power to bully other officials into not supporting this resolution shows just how fragile his ego is, and how desperately he is clinging to whatever power he can. Everyone else: do better. Represent your people, represent the 11,000 people who clearly told you they support Black lives.

I hope you seriously consider voting in support of this legislation and other more meaningful steps for Black lives in Rensselaer County as outlined by Troy 4 Black Lives.

Sincerely,
Ivy Hest
47 Mellon Ave
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ellie Irons <ellieirons@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment for Tuesday County Legislature meeting

County Legislators,

My name is Ellie Irons and I am a homeowner residing on 9th Street in Troy, in Rensselaer County. My statement today is in support of Resolution 36, which acknowledges the Black Lives Matter Movement. This resolution falls woefully short of what is needed to begin long process of undoing centuries of systemic racism and unjust policing of communities of color in the United States, and here in our own county. Even so, the resolution is an obvious first step. The fact that legislators who initially signed onto it backed out due to fear of retribution from others on this council is dismaying and disheartening. I am dismayed both for those who did the pressuring, and those who bowed to it.

Nothing contained in the resolution is revelatory or radical. It merely states the obvious, a truth too well known to Black and brown members of our community and too often ignored or erased by those in power (like the all white county legislature seated here tonight): that this country was built on the enslavement of Black people and the racism that upheld that enslavement. This is true not just in a national sense, but in a material sense here in Rensselaer County, where the Van Rensselaer Family owned many enslaved people and refused to free them until a NY State Statute made it illegal to hold enslaved people on July 4th, 1827. The legacies of that foundation are at the root of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today—this resolution is a step towards acknowledging that, and in synch with what is happening across the country.

A recent national poll by the Pew Research found that over 2/3 of Americans now support the Black Lives Matter movement [1]. I believe that sentiment is reflected here in our own county, as demonstrated by the 11,000 people who came out on June 7 to protest peacefully at the Troy Rally for Black Lives. A vote against this resolution is not just woefully out of touch with the current moment, but it is also a vote *for* maintaining the status quo. This is a status quo where a racist criminal justice system murders our Black and brown community members on the street and perpetuates a form of mass incarceration that echoes our nation's founding in chattel slavery.

As a mother, a community member, and a white person standing in solidarity with my Black and brown friends and neighbors, I urge you to take a careful look at your own stance in this moment, both as a council and as individuals. Do Black lives matter *to you*? Do your Black constituents matter to you? This is not about a partisan divide, nor is it a political game. This is about a child's ability to grow up with her father present, about a grandfather's ability to see his grandson survive his teens. Nor is it an abstract or remote issue—here in our county we have seen the dire effects of a racist criminal justice system, where community members like Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald have been killed or harmed by police brutality, where immigrants of color have been ripped apart from their families, and where we now see resistance to even beginning the process of righting this broken system.

We are fortunate to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities, and who have already outlined what those next steps might look like. We need folks like those on this council to really listen, to face old fears and assumptions, alliances and habits. It's time to stop looking away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Ellie Irons

[1]: <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/06/12/amid-protests-majorities-across-racial-and-ethnic-groups-express-support-for-the-black-lives-matter-movement/>

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Charette, Jessica

From: John White <whitej370@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution No. 36

Good evening,

I was recently advised of the resolution and some of the goals. I strongly oppose the defunding of the police. If anything, more needs to be invested into the police. If there are issues that need to be addressed, then there needs to be education about those topics. Look at the reality of the failed bail reform. Victims are being victimized because the changes for bail reform were politically motivated, not thoughtful reforms.

Police are the most colorblind people. They do not judge people by the race, religion, sexual preference, etc. They judge individuals by their character and their actions. ALL people deserve equal protection.

If you want to look at police brutality and excessive force, let's look at real numbers. Not cater to those spreading false narratives that it's a pandemic. Don't implement impossible rules that ties the police's hands from doing their job, as there are enough rules that do.

Stop the knee jerk reactions. Seek real solutions to the problems, not what seems politically correct or what gets you the next vote. Those trained in the matter need to be brought in on the discussions and decisions.

I think something that needs to be revisited is the push to stop bullying. This movement gained so much momentum but has now come to a screeching halt. If someone tries to say anything that doesn't go with the narrative, they get BULLIED and ostracized.

I am happy to discuss further.

Respectfully,
John

Sent from my iPhone

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Charette, Jessica

From: Anthony Bernini <zipovid@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Rensselaer County Legislature Resolution No. P/36

Chairman Stammel, Good Morning.

I am a citizen of the United States who finds himself living in the Town of Brunswick in Rensselaer County. I have lived in Rensselaer County for more than thirty years, and have not until now written a letter to my County Legislature. I commend Legislators Grimm, Doran, Burns, Fleming, Sullivan-Teta, and Weaver for introducing Resolution P/36. It seems to me that the slogan, Black Lives Matter, is simply a recognition of the historical truth that our country is still emerging from the Civil War, which did settle the question whether American society will support the ownership and control of human beings by other human beings who would call themselves Americans. The question was settled; the answer is that we will not have it. But, of course, we who are Caucasians, White people, have continued to exercise an effective ownership and control of we who are Black people in all of the areas of social interaction that can make for an enlightened society. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood that the arc of justice is a long one. Here in Rensselaer County, R. P/36 is particularly timely: Rensselaer County has managed to mark itself as a place of national disgrace because of the way in which its public servants, regardless of political party, have behaved with regard to the death of that man Thevennan. We had County Attorney Abelove (a Republican) lie to a grand jury about the matter, and then we had Mayor Madden (a Democrat) suppress an apparently forthright report on the matter that was prepared by a Troy Police Captain, who performed his duty with integrity. The City, and by extension, the County, is not finished paying for that suppression. Resolution P/36 is a simple, cost-free statement that the Legislature can use to confirm that we all do matter here, and that are better than those behaviors which have disgraced us. I ask you all to support Resolution P/36. I am,

Sincerely,
Anthony Bernini

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Charette, Jessica

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:58 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Opposition to defunding

Hello,

I would like to keep my name anonymous but I would like my letter read.

I am Native American with tribal affiliation and I reside in Brunswick. I honestly do not feel there is any racism in the police department or justice system in Rensselaer County.

I do however believe there is a threat to law enforcement and hindering their enforcement capabilities only endangers the residents of Rensselaer County.

As you know the Town of Brunswick does not have a Police Department, it's patrolled by the Rensselaer County Sheriffs department and New York State Police.

I've lived in Brunswick for 30 years and I've never had a problem with any of those officers. They are the utmost professionals and truly care about their community.

I am concerned that the recent gang shootings and daily violence in the City of Troy is spreading to Brunswick and I do not want the capabilities of the police that protect us to be stripped. I can't even protect my family because of the ridiculous waiting time for a permit under the safe act. (Still waiting)

Please stop pandering to the left, this is not what the silent majority of Rensselaer County residents feel or want. Please stop the vilification of Law Enforcement, it's not right and it's making their jobs even harder. We truly need our police, now more than ever.

Respectfully,

A Brunswick resident

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Charette, Jessica

From: ginny@logical.net
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:47 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Resolution P/36

As a former member of the Rensselaer County Legislature, I am writing to express my support and encouragement for the unanimous passage of the aforementioned Resolution.

While the Resolution is Parliamentary in nature, it certainly is a resolution that speaks to the times we are experiencing in our country and indeed the broader global community. It speaks to the horrendous systemic racism that has plagued our nation since its very beginning.

While I believe deeply and passionately in the idea and ideals of America, I do feel that we need to rid ourselves of this systemic legacy. I know that we cannot erase our history, however we certainly can change its course going forward.

I think this resolution is a first step in acknowledging the problem of racism and the evils it has brought to so many of our citizens.

Further steps should be considered like forming a citizen task force comprised of elected officials, members of church organizations, police departments, not for profits, students and other interested community members who will work on solutions to the problem of systemic racism.

It is the time to turn the protests into policies. If not now, When??
Do not lose the energy of the movement and the moment.

Thank You,

Ginny O'Brien
North Greenbush

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Charette, Jessica

From: Cherokee Lynn <lynn.cherokee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:40 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Comment for July 14th County Legislature Meeting

Dear Rensselaer County Legislators,

My name is Cherokee Lynn and I live in the City of Troy in Rensselaer County. I am writing today in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

A resolution in support of BLM is necessary, but let's be clear, it is the most basic step that can be taken to affirm the contributions my people have made to our society in the face of oppression. Accountability is a sustained practice that takes effort. This resolution is an acknowledgement of the work that still needs to be done given the widespread police brutality and state-sanctioned violence against Black people.

I haven't always lived in Rensselaer County. I was raised in a white community in upstate New York where I was one of few Black people. I did not grow up with a mistrust of law enforcement because I lived in a community that was not heavily policed, as is almost always the case in low income communities of color. My interactions with the police changed when I moved to Rensselaer County. As an educator and resident of Troy, I have witnessed far too many examples of discriminatory policing. These experiences of injustice and the murders of Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald all happened in Rensselaer County.

To have to urge this body to adopt a resolution that states that my life and the lives of my Black family members, friends, and neighbors matter, in the face of the tragic murder of George Floyd and numerous other Black people who have been victims of systemic racism and violence is absolutely staggering. To vote against Resolution 36 is to show that you do not care to listen to the interests of the people of Rensselaer County who gathered, 11,000 strong, in the City of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter.

I hope that you will take this vote with serious consideration. We're watching. Are you listening?

Sincerely,

Cherokee Lynn

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Charette, Jessica

From: Laura Ferris <laurajf1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:38 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Resolution 36

County Legislators,

I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement. My name is Laura Ferris and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. This resolution is an important beginning as we start to address our country's long standing history of racism, injustice, and violence against people of color.

I participated in the Black Lives Matter rally in Troy and was overwhelmed and impressed by the leadership evident there, the passion of the participants, and the ideas presented to combat the racism and structural injustice that pervades our society. We are long overdue in addressing these issues and have an opportunity to begin the process with this resolution.

It is my sincere hope that each legislator will support this initial step to make our county a better home for all of us.

Laura Ferris

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Charette, Jessica

From: Erin Sickler <ermasi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:33 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Resolution 36

Dear Legislators,

My name is Erin Sickler. I live in the city of Troy. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36, the Black Lives Matter Movement, and specifically substantive measures to be taken to address police brutality, excessive force, and systemic racism in Rensselaer County. This resolution is a necessary first step towards acknowledging the daily reality of racism and the violence as it is faced by our Black family members, friends, neighbors.

Due to the tragic murder of George Floyd, Americans, particularly white Americans, are waking up to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color across the country. This includes here in Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality.

On June 12th, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued Executive Order Number 203, which recognizes the systemic nature of racism and police brutality facing Black, Indigenous and people of color across New York State. It also recognizes that all people in our communities have the right to be treated fairly and equally before the law. Furthermore, the organization Troy 4 Black Lives, which organized the Troy Rally for Black Lives on June 7th, 2020 and drew together 11,000 people, has issued a set of demands that include a civilian review board and alternatives to policing.

Beyond the issue of the police, the gap in socioeconomic outcomes between white people and people of color is by several measures worse than it has ever been in the United States since the Civil Rights Era. We must make fundamental changes in how we provide education to young people, particularly young people of color, and reform zoning laws to promote affordable housing and integration.

In other words, we have a lot of work to do.

To vote against this resolution, and against the bare acknowledgement of systemic racism and violence in our community, is a vote against civil liberties and human rights. I was horrified to hear that the Chairman tried to block this measure and pressure other legislators into dropping their support.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution and to stand in support of it. I urge you to acknowledge the hurt and harm done in our community by systemic racism. I urge you to take up these demands with great seriousness as is your charge.

Thank you for your time,
Erin Sickler

Charette, Jessica

From: Doug & Karin Lenz <dhlkkl@dhlkkl.digitalspacemail8.net>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:23 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter by the County Legislature
Attachments: Statement in Support of Res 36 for BLM July 2020.docx

To Whom It May Concern,

Please pass this resolution in support of BLM. Attached find my letter of support.

Thank you,

Doug Lenz
130 2nd St.
Troy, NY

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July 12, 2020

To: Rensselaer County Legislators

It is gratifying to see that our political leaders here in Rensselaer County have stood up to do the right thing by issuing a resolution in support of Black Lives Matter. It's an important first step to achieve racial justice in our community, which will improve **ALL** lives.

I urge the Legislature to vote "YES" to pass this resolution in support of Black Lives Matter!

The tragic killing of George Floyd while in the custody of the Minneapolis Police has awakened America to the racism and injustices suffered by people of color that permeate our society. The scourge of slavery continues to rear its ugly head in the form of discrimination and prejudice producing inequalities in economics, employment, education, healthcare, the justice system, and participation in the political process.

Peaceful protests throughout the country led by the Black Lives Matter movement have galvanized many in our society to act to bring about change. Indeed, 11,000 people rallied in Troy and many others throughout the Capital Region to show their support for and solidarity with BLM. It's gratifying to see so many individuals, businesses, educational institutions, agencies and non-profit and religious organizations coming out with statements that commit them to change. Indeed, many of the Fortune 500 have issued statements vowing to stand with Black Lives Matter, acknowledging that if Black lives don't matter, NO lives matter. Not only are they issuing supportive statements but are committing resources, time and money, to righting the wrongs that stem from racism. Those corporate titans operating in Rensselaer County include the following:

1. Amazon
2. Bank of America
3. CVS
4. Home Depot
5. Target
6. Starbucks
7. Walmart
8. McDonalds
9. Wendy's

The list of other corporate giants supporting Black Lives Matter continues to grow as well.

Thank you,

Dr. Douglas Lenz
Troy

Charette, Jessica

From: Garrett Hamlin <garretthamlin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:51 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Please support Resolution 36 - Black Lives Matter

County Legislators,

My name is Garrett Hamlin, and I live in Troy, NY. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I have lived in Troy for many years. I vote in elections, and I feel it is critical that you as our elected officials know that I care deeply about this matter, and I expect you as our elected officials to understand and to act in a manner that will eliminate racism and injustice in our community.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you. To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves. Please choose to support Resolution 36.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Ron McClamrock <ronmcc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Subject: Fwd: Calling for support of Resolution 36 and BLM

County Legislators,

I'm Ron McClamrock, a long-time resident of Troy and Rensselaer County. I write today in support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I've never been more proud of being a local resident than when 11,000 of us came out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. In this moment of heightened consciousness of systemic racism, it's our obligation to speak and act in support of justice and reform. Resolution 36 is a beginning.

Please, support it, and add our voices to this call for justice.

Sincerely,
Ron McClamrock, Troy
ronmcc@gmail.com

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Charette, Jessica

From: Theresa Zubretsky <tzubrock@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:18 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: I urge you to stand for justice and equity by supporting Resolution 36

To the Rensselaer County Legislature:

I am writing to urge you to pass Resolution 36 and publicly demonstrate support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. For far too long, my neighbors of color have been denied the freedom and security that I enjoy as a result of my white privilege. It's long past time that all of us who support justice and equity for all people acknowledge those who continue to be left behind. Acknowledging the historical and systemic racism that pervades our culture and continues to oppress people of color is a necessary first step toward identifying and choosing ways to create a more just and equitable community.

I've lived in Rensselaer County for 40 years. Throughout those years, I've worked locally in domestic violence, alcohol & other drug addictions, and tobacco control. In each of these areas, I have witnessed firsthand the additional institutional obstacles and barriers that exist for people of color and the negative health and safety consequences that result. The recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have intensified scrutiny not only of law enforcement, but of all institutional racism as reflected in disparities related to wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, political power, education and health care. As it should be.

Racism has no place in a just society. Everyone deserves the right to live and thrive in environments that are safe, stable and healthy. Please stand with me and so many others in the Rensselaer County community to support our brothers and sisters of color and make our county a safe and healthy community for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa Zubretsky
9 Jesse Ct, Troy NY 12180
518-961-6140
tzubrock@gmail.com

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Charette, Jessica

From: Laura Hynes <nv14.hynes@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:17 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Support for Black Lives Matter and Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Laura Hynes and I live in the town of Wynantskill, in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I have lived in Rensselaer County and have regularly been disgusted with displays of racism from my community at all levels. Our community has the chance in this moment to make real change that speaks to demands from activists on a national level, and from our own Troy 4 Black Lives. This resolution is a necessary - though not sufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, we are honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen.

I was especially dismayed to learn that the Chairman took it upon himself to pressure and threaten other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. As long as we live in a democracy it is no person's place, however powerful they may portend to be, to take away the voice of the people – only someone's constituents have the power to take away their position, Mr. Chairman – it is not your place. I was likewise dismayed to learn that some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names following pressure from the Chairman. To remove your name in this way does not reflect working in the interests of the people who elected you. At a time when more people than ever are aware of the actions of their elected officials, these actions will not be forgotten. I urge you to be on the right side of history.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Hynes

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Charette, Jessica

From: Denise Pickering (via Google Docs) <vermontccc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: Pickering_County Legislature Comments - July 2020

vermontccc@gmail.com has attached the following document:



Pickering_County Legislature Comments - July 2020

Snapshot of the item below:

July 13, 2020

Greetings County Legislators,

My name is Denise Pickering, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was delighted to see 11,000 people come out on June 7 in Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has laid bare America (especially White America) to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Rensselaer County is unfortunately not an exception in this area. We have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed the police; we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families; and, we do not currently have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I have been a resident of Rensselaer County since 2016. I was drawn to Troy in part due to the diversity of the city. It's a city that has thoughtful citizens and leadership and appears to be working towards inclusivity for all. In short, it's a desirable place to live. Originally from the Midwest (Columbus, OH), I lived in Vermont for 10 years prior to moving here. One of the reasons I left is because it was so White. I'm White. And racial diversity (and equity) is important to me. I'm an educator (currently employed as a full-time faculty member at Hudson Valley Community College) and mental health professional and have specialized in diversity and social justice issues for the last 25 years. I teach in the Human Services and Chemical Dependency Department and talk about racism in all of my courses. I believe that Rensselaer County has great potential to be leaders in addressing structural racism and inequities in racial justice--and it has work to do. One of the important ways to address these inequities is by creating and enacting policies.

I was disheartened to hear that Chairman Michael Stammel has applied pressure to and threatened other legislators, duly elected by their constituents, who had signed onto this resolution. I truly hope that this is not the case and that it is a rumor. If it's true, I implore you to consider the constituents' voices that you represent and not be pressured in not doing what you believe in and your constituents elected you to do--represent their interests and voices. If it's not true, please be transparent and explain why some of the initial signatories to the resolution who represent the city of Troy removed their names.

To vote against this resolution is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the fact that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the fact of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the fact that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county.

Thank you for your time. I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that is warranted and deserved.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

Sincerely,
Denise Pickering
116 2nd Street, #3
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Bridget Ball Shaw <bridgetballshaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Charette, Jessica; Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia; Scott Bendett
Subject: Black Lives Matter

Good afternoon,

It's time. It's long past time. There may have been pockets of objection but the recent murder in cold blood of George Floyd by an officer of the law has silenced those objections. Or should have. If there are any remnants of these objections in Rensselaer County, the time is now to put an end to them.

We watched a man be slowly murdered. He called out for his Mama with his dying breaths and, make no mistake, every mother heard that call. And millions of Americans, indeed, millions - billions? - of global citizens stood up and said, "no more."

Cell phone videos are capturing what we had heard rumored but couldn't bear to believe. Aren't we better than that? Aren't we kinder? Please tell me we're more civilized at least!

I have lived in Rensselaer County for almost 30 years. I love Rensselaer County. And I join my fellow/sister residents in demanding that Rensselaer County adopt the Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter.

That's just for starters. But it's a critical start. Then we move forward. We work with our law enforcement, our schools, our churches, our businesses to fight racism wherever it raises its ugly head.

And let's be honest. This movement is reshaping our country, our planet. The residents of Rensselaer County are already on board. It's time for our legislators to get on board.

Pass the resolution.

Sincerely,

--

Bridget Ball Shaw
BridgetBallShaw@gmail.com
office 518 514-1800
cell 518 221-3183

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Charette, Jessica

From: Berly Brown <kberlybrown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In support of Resolution 36 and the Black Lives Matter Movement

County Legislators,

My name is Kimberly Brown and I live in Troy, NY in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Though this resolution is not sufficient in and of itself, it is still a vitally important action we must take in acknowledging the very real threat of racism, violence, and continued injustice against Black residents in our county and in our country. There is so much more work that must be done and I am grateful to live in a community that has a group like Troy 4 Black Lives who is doing the work for racial justice. They have already identified what steps we must take to prove we actually DO care about the lives and well-being of Black people. We just need to listen. **Please listen.**

My husband and I moved to Upstate New York from Nebraska almost 5 years ago. We have lived in Troy, NY for the last 3 years. We are artists and moved here and continue to live here because we value the diversity and creativity in the area compared to the limited perspectives of our mostly white upbringing. We were elated to see 11,000 people come out last month to support Black Lives Matter and felt proud to be here for such an historic moment.

With that said, I am bewildered to find out that Chairman Stammel had the audacity to pressure and threaten other legislators who had signed onto this resolution. That certainly diminishes the feelings of pride I had only a few weeks ago to live here. How dare he?! I'm equally dismayed that some of those who signed the legislation and claim to represent the city of Troy removed their names because of the bullying of this Chairman. How does this reflect the interests of the people who elected you? How does this represent democracy? Though these signatories and Chairman Stammel may not have intended to, by removing their names, they have acted to uphold White Supremacy. Gross.

I appreciate your time and consideration and I hope you will take this vote standing on the side of justice.

In solidarity with Black lives,
Kimberly Brown
South Lake Avenue
Troy, NY 12180

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Charette, Jessica

From: Mary Ann Cleaves <mcleaves@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:04 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: pgrim@rensco.com; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Black Lives Matter Resolution.

Dear Legislators,

My name is Mary Ann Cleaves and I live at 168 North Lake Ave. in the Town of Brunswick. I believe that as a country and a county we need to confront the fact that people of color face unequal treatment in all areas of our society. Support of Black Lives Matters is an important first step in ending inequality to the benefit of us all. For this reason I support the Rensselaer County Legislature for introducing Resolution P36 in support of the Black Lives Matters movement and calling for racial justice for Black people and people of color, and I urge all legislators to approve its passage.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Cleaves

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Charette, Jessica

From: Drea Leanza <drealeanza@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:48 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: support of Resolution P/36

I am writing in support of Resolution P/36, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

In order to dedicate our time, effort and resources into a more just and equitable county, we first must *acknowledge* the existence of systemic inequities and injustice aimed at people of color.

The death of George Floyd opened this system of injustice to national and international scrutiny. Racial injustices exist in many areas of our county, including education, housing, healthcare, voting rights and criminal justice, to list just a few. There is no doubt that these inequities exist, and a majority of people agree that they are wrong and go against our values. Thousands of people recently demonstrated peacefully in Troy to support Black Lives Matter and the concepts of this Resolution.

This Resolution P/36 acknowledges the inequities and creates a foundation from which we can work for positive improvement. It does NOT penalize law enforcement, the education system, housing or other social/economic structures; it merely states the obvious: that racism exists and is hugely detrimental to everyone in our county, **and needs to be rectified.**

Please read the Resolution closely. Voting **against** it denies the reality of the people of color in Rensselaer County, and moves us backwards instead of forwards. Voting in favor of the Resolution will advance the work to make a "more perfect union." I urge serious consideration of the morality of the resolution and voting in favor of it.

Andrea Leanza
2227 Fifth Ave., Troy NY

(518) 274-0038
email: drealeanza@gmail.com

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
—Margaret Mead

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.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Charette, Jessica

From: Amy Rose <acutrose@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: In favor of Resolution 36

County Legislators,

My name is Amy Yarsevich, and I live in the city of Troy in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

We, as a county, need to enter the 21st century and be up-to-date on social issues. Resolution 36 is not merely necessary but mandatory in keeping up with the times. We need to show that we acknowledge racism exists.

Though change is hard and takes time, Rensselaer community members are expressing their desire and the need for systems to change. Groups like Troy 4 Black Lives are not going away. It is only a matter of time that white supremacy is openly revealed in Rensselaer County. Hearing that the Chairman has threatened other legislators to not sign onto this resolution is embarrassing and an archaic stance.

I stand with Resolution 36 and although the majority may not agree at this time, I hope that you all will believe it's importance and urgency and act accordingly.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to your community.

Sincerely,

Amy Yarsevich



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Charette, Jessica

From: Corey Jamison <corey@coreyjamison.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:42 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: BLM- My voice of support

I want to thank you for your resolution in support of Black Lives Matter.

I am proud to live and work in a city that understands and cherishes the value of its citizenry.

We are all expecting you to rise to this moment, to lift your voices and your power in support of the people who are counting on you. Be a model to my my children, show us who you are in this moment- we are surely paying attention to exactly that.

Sincerely,

Dr. Corey Jamison
Troy Resident
Troy-based Business Owner

Corey Jamison, PhD
President & CEO
Corey Jamison Consulting, LLC.
XperienceU Training & Leadership Development
Putting Courage to Work
corey@coreyjamison.com
518.542.9440
She/her/hers



Charette, Jessica

From: Kate Connally <katelynmconn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support Resolution 36 & BLM

County Legislators,

My name is Kate Connally and I live in the town of Brunswick in Rensselaer County. I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Resolution 36 is a necessary - though insufficient - step in acknowledging the realities of racism and the violence against our Black family members, friends, neighbors, and in acknowledging how much work we still have to do. We don't have to look far to see what that work is. And, I feel the city of Troy is honored to have groups like Troy 4 Black Lives that are working for racial justice right here in our local communities who have already outlined what those next steps should be. We just need to listen and act.

I've been a lifelong resident of Troy and grew up on Sausse Ave near St. Mary's hospital for nearly 22 years. I've watched and experienced firsthand the transformations this city has gone through including a broadening acceptance of all different races and ethnicities from the previously primarily white communities above Burdett Avenue. Like so many other cities across the country, Troy has the opportunity to gain better trust from its citizens and pave the way to a more equal life for anyone who moves to this city as long as our governing bodies act on this resolution and its community's recommendations quickly.

I urge this body to recognize the simple facts laid out in this resolution, because they are NOT revelatory. They merely state what historians who have bothered to look beyond what was 'written by the victors' already know and tell us. That this country was built on slavery and the racism that upheld it, the legacies of which are still entangled with and the foundation of so many of our laws, institutions, and practices today. To vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

I hope that you will take this vote with the serious consideration for justice that it deserves.

Most sincerely,

Kate Connally

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Charette, Jessica

From: Priscilla Fairbank <pfairbank@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter
Subject: statement in support of Resolution 36

Chairman Stammel and County Legislators:

My name is Priscilla Fairbank and I live in Poestenkill in Rensselaer County. I am writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I applaud the leadership of our Legislators in introducing this resolution in support of Black Lives Matter and urge the Rensselaer County Legislature to endorse it. I believe this is a critical moment and opportunity to recognize the problems of racism, engage with the challenges, and make changes that will create a more fair and equitable culture for all our people.

The tide of history is changing and I want our elected officials to embrace this change and work to build a community that is welcoming and supportive of all races, cultures, religions, sexual identities, and abilities. To resist this opportunity for commitment and change would be a failure of moral leadership.

The Black Lives Matter Movement is urgent. Until we address the injustices and pain being highlighted, we can't sit back to say "All lives matter". There is a great deal of hard work needed. This Resolution 36 is a good first step; it is a statement of intention. I urge you, our Legislators, to endorse this so we can all move forward together.

Thank you,
Priscilla Fairbank

752 Oak Hill Rd
Averill Park, NY 12018

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Charette, Jessica

From: shannon johnson <boogabean@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Support of Resolution 36 for Black Lives Matter

County Legislators,

My name is Shannon Johnson, and I live in the city/town of Nassau/Averill Park in Rensselaer County. As a 25-year resident of Rensselaer county I'm writing in support of Resolution 36 and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

I was heartened to see 11,000 people come out recently in the city of Troy in support of Black Lives Matter. The tragic murder of George Floyd has awakened more of (particularly white) America to the racism, injustices, and violence perpetrated on Black, Indigenous, and people of color – racism, injustices, and violence which permeate our society. This includes Rensselaer County, where we have seen Black people – including Edson Thevenin and Dahmeek McDonald – killed and harmed by police brutality, where we have seen immigrants of color ripped apart from their families, and where we do not have any Black representatives of our communities in this body.

I can't tell you what it is like to be an African-American in this county, this state, or this country; but as a queer woman of European descent, I CAN tell you that just being in a single oppressed group even as a so-called 'white' person in this county can be challenging without having to deal with things like the food desert in North Troy, fearing my child being shot just walking down the street, or not wanting to even drive at night for fear of being stopped by the police. We can do better.

In addition, i have seen the county legislature at some of their best and worst during legislative meetings i attended during review of the kindermorgen pipeline that was to cross Southern Rensselaer county a few years ago. Sadly while i hope it is untrue that Minority Leader Grimm was threatened by his fellow colleagues in the legislature, i'm not surprised. The sad state of affairs in our country today is that we can't even agree that a man should not die with a police officer's knee in his neck, calling out to his mother, declaring I CAN'T BREATHE so many agonizing times. Its DISGUSTING. What are Rensselaer Republicans afraid of? Showing HUMANITY? I am ashamed and disheartened that we can't all come together to say "THIS IS WRONG!" — "WE CAN DO BETTER!". Stop the Hate, look inside your heart, imagine your child under that knee, and vote your conscience.

To vote against this is (quite literally according to its own language) to vote against the mere acknowledgement that George Floyd and numerous other Black people have been the victims of systemic racism and violence. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement of the historic marginalization of and police brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and all people of color. To vote against this is to vote against the mere acknowledgement that racism exists, that white privilege exists, and that the myths of white supremacist ideologies exist and must be countered. To vote against this is a vote against a belief in civil liberties, in human rights, and in voting rights. To vote against this is a vote against ending systemic racism and preventing the use of excessive force in this county. And to vote against this is a vote against acknowledging the simple truth that we hold these things to be self-evident: that all people, that Black, Indigenous, and all people of color, deserve to be treated equal under the law – even if the law was never built to protect them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.
—Martin Luther King

Shannon Johnson
69 Lakeshore Drive
Averill Park, NY 12018

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Charette, Jessica

From: Angela Beallor <angelabeallor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:29 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Grimm, Peter; Doran, Cynthia
Subject: Letter for County Legislature meeting (July 14th)

To the Members of the Rensselaer County Legislature:

My name is Angela Beallor. I live in Troy, NY. I am writing in support of the resolution for Black Lives Matter presented for a vote on July 14, 2020.

The Republican majority of the County Legislature is so appalled by the notions that Black Lives Matter and that we should challenge systemic racism, proposed in this Black Lives Matter support resolution, that they have taken it upon themselves to propose multiple resolutions aimed at supporting law enforcement in the face of much necessary international, national, and local critique.

The resolution in support of BLM begins by remembering the horrific murder of George Floyd by the hands of the police in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It goes on to convey great sentiments in support of the nationwide Black Lives Matter movement alongside critiques of systemic racism and the history of white supremacy.

I am glad to see the persistence of legislators who are taking a risk and taking a stance in this historical moment. I hope that the legislature will pass this resolution in support of Black Lives Matter and against white supremacy and systemic racism.

What is sidelined in ALL of these resolutions, however, is a reflection on what is occurring *locally*. There is no mention of Edson Thevenin who was murdered by Troy police officer Randall French in 2016. According to internal investigations, French made *unjustifiable use of deadly force* against Edson Thevenin, a husband and father to two young children.

What is sidelined is the work and demands of the local organizers who brought together over 11,000 people during an early June rally in Troy, NY. These resolutions clearly ignore the demands of the local Troy 4 Black Lives organization that has been leading the organizing efforts in this city calling to:

1. End police killings.
2. Create a civilian review board *with subpoena power and representation of no less than 60% by those most impacted by violence and police violence.*
3. A full investigation into all uses of force by the police.
4. The disentanglement of county government from ICE.
5. The appointment of the Attorney General (by Executive Order or legislation) as an independent investigator and prosecutor in all cases of the use of deadly force by a police officer.
6. The exploration and creation of diversion programs away from criminal justice involvement to community-based treatment alternatives for the mentally ill, youth, and in cases involving drug use

and sex work, with a view to reducing unnecessary incarceration which disproportionately impacts economically exploited communities and specifically Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

These resolutions disregard the important work of Troy 4 Black Lives. As T4BL writes, “Rensselaer County Legislature are honoring the police for *our* work, our *community's* work, our *collective* work.”

In Rensselaer county, we need to see concrete evidence that Black Lives Matter, that the local officials are taking the critiques of policing and systemic racism seriously, that we are willing to do the work to confront the historic and persistent inequalities and abuses present in our system.

Ending the cover-up in the 2016 murder of Edson Thevenin would be an important first step.

Angela Beallor
808 Jacob Street
Troy, NY

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Charette, Jessica

From: Abby Harris <aehharris5160@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Charette, Jessica
Cc: Doran, Cynthia; Grimm, Peter
Subject: Troy for Black Lives

Dear Legislators,

My name is Abigail Harris and I live in the town of Rensselaer, NY.

I am writing in support of resolution 36, and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

While I do not believe the resolution completely addresses all the issues associated with systemic racism and how it effects our communities, I believe resolution 36 is something we could do in support of Black Lives Matter Movement in our community now.

I beg you to educate yourself, as I have, on the continued racial injustice and inequity in our communities. I plead you to pledge to make a difference now by passing resolution 36. I have seen the division in the community and believe this is the path needed for unity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Abigail Harris

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Bott, Virginia

From: Bob Dufresne <redrol61@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Fiacco, Leon; Bayly, Robert; Grant, Thomas; Hoffman, Kelly; McLaughlin, Steve; Joe Bott
Subject: Bail Reform, BLM, Supporting Our Police
Attachments: Stubbed Attachments.htm

This message's contents have been archived by the Barracuda Message Archiver.
[TNA \(3613\) 7-6-20 What's Really Behind The Riots.pdf](#) (4.3M)

From: Bob Dufresne [<mailto:redrol61@nycap.rr.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:08 PM
To: Assemblyman John T. McDonald
Subject: Bail Reform, BLM, Supporting Our Police

John---

After reading about the murders, shootings and other violence in our area, if you haven't already considered legislative action to undo New York's disastrous Bail Reform and Raise the Age Laws, now is the time to do so. Your June 3 email saying that you are "committed to environmental justice" sounds nice, but just doesn't measure up to the law and order that we urgently need.

Also, since I understand that you support the Black Lives Matter Movement and may have marched with the Black Lives Matter protestors in Cohoes last month, I think you will find the articles in the attached July 6 issue of The New American magazine shocking. As the cover article, "What's Really Behind The Riots?" details:

- At the center of the unrest and protests that swept through thousands of U.S. cities is "Black Lives Matter (BLM)." The group, which officially organized many of the protests that spiraled into chaos, was founded in part to glorify convicted cop-killer Assata Shakur (aka Joanne Chesimard), one of the FBI's most-wanted terrorists. After robbing banks to fund the "revolution," Chesimard and her comrades murdered New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in a shootout. The Weather Underground terrorist group helped her break out of jail. From there, she fled to Communist Cuba for refuge.
- Across BLM websites, events, and social media accounts, the murderous terrorist (Assata Shakur aka Joanne Chesimard) is celebrated as a hero and an inspiration. And in an article explaining why she created the Black Lives Matter movement, BLM co-founder and self proclaimed "queer" feminist Alicia Garza cited Shakur. "When I use Assata's powerful demand in my organizing work, I always begin by sharing where it comes from, sharing about Assata's significance to the Black

Liberation Movement,” Garza said in the piece, speaking of the “lineage” from which the efforts are derived.

- The group has gone on record praising the late mass-murdering communist dictator Fidel Castro, too. When he died in 2016, BLM said it felt an “overwhelming sense of loss” over the man they lovingly referred to as “El Comandante.” “It is the lessons that we take from Fidel,” the BLM Global Network wrote. “From Fidel, we know that revolution is sparked by an idea, by radical imaginings, which sometimes take root first among just a few dozen people coming together in the mountains. As a Black network committed to transformation, we are particularly grateful to Fidel for holding Mama Assata Shakur, who continues to inspire us.”
- And if black lives really mattered to the Black Lives Matter Movement, why don’t they speak out about the thousands of black lives snuffed out daily by abortion? They might also be concerned about the data published by Heather Mac Donald in the Wall Street Journal showing that over 7,000 black men died at the hands of other black men last year, compared to nine unarmed blacks who died at the hands of police. Indeed, the data show “a police officer is 18 times more likely to be killed by a black male than an unarmed black male is to be killed by a police officer,” the Journal reported. Studies have also revealed that police are more likely to shoot white suspects than black suspects.

Please read the attached articles and take action to (1) undo the Bail Reform and Raise the Age Laws, (2) expose the anti-American communist inspired Black Lives Matter Movement, and (3) support our police in enforcing our laws and ending the violence that is destroying America.

Sincerely,

Bob Dufresne
61 Red Oak Lane
Rensselaer, NY 12144

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★★★★ SPECIAL REPORT ★★★★★

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The

New American

SAVE A
LIFE KILL
A COP

WHAT'S REALLY BEHIND
THE RIOTS?