

UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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The country was horrified by the totally senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of the police in Minneapolis, Minnesota and now the message of Joe Gale, Montgomery County Commissioner has stirred up even more anger and division throughout our community. Gale's statements and the assassination of Mr. Floyd are the prescription that has been written by the doctors of racism and prejudice for generations. Upper Gwynedd Township does not share his beliefs. We will take the necessary steps to make sure we secure change and equity in our community and dispel racism wherever and whenever we see or hear it.

With the barrage of news media coverage, we must not lose sight of the real issues, justice and change. We cannot possibly work to fix this problem without everyone at the table. We have already begun to work on projects to bring our community together peacefully and are looking for more ways to commit to anti-racism. This problem will not change overnight or over the next month, but if we start a real, courageous conversation, to face the realities of the racial tension, we can make a step in the right direction.

We will make mistakes as we try to work on the issues that have separated us, but we have to communicate even when it hurts. As Will Smith, said, "Racism is not new, it's just being filmed". When we know better, we have to do better. We are about change. We can't be silent. We must rise to meet this moment. It's not enough just "to not be racist", we have to be anti-racist in order to dismantle these institutionalized racist concepts. Now is the time to make a commitment and pledge to break down the system of racism and oppression.

We are thankful for the public servants, the essential workers who are committed to protecting and caring for the public professionally. In Upper Gwynedd, we know that protests are the language of the unheard, and we want to thank the citizens who have participated in so many peaceful protests. We want Upper Gwynedd citizens to know that we are listening, and we will continue to build bridges of equality that will bring us together, not separate us. We will always work to unify our communities and work on enduring change. Recently, former President Obama spoke about change and hope. He said we must look to each other, listen to our young people, and work with our older citizens for change to happen. It will take all of us working with each other to combat injustice everywhere. We must be ever resolute in making the changes now, we must use this spark to work with each other on changing the broken system; not just fixing it.

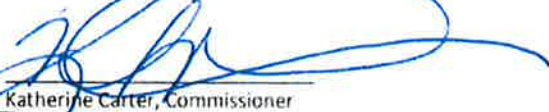
Please stay tuned over the coming months as we work on programming to bring community conversations to UGT.



Liz McNaney, President



Denise Hull, Vice President



Katherine Carter, Commissioner



Marth Simelaro, Commissioner



Ruth Damsker, Commissioner