

Ambassador Johnson
U.S. Embassy London
33 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW11 7US



Date: 5th August 2020

Tel: 01452 396396
richard.cook@gloucester.gov.uk

Dear Ambassador Johnson,

It is with great regret that I write this letter on behalf of Gloucester City Council and its residents to unequivocally condemn the recent unlawful death of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department. Gloucester City Council is gravely concerned by the actions that caused the death of Mr. Floyd and condemns all acts of racism and racial injustice, especially in the policing of marginalized communities in many parts of United States.

As demonstrated through the United States of America's national anthem, America is committed to being;

“... the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

The death of Mr. Floyd is a stark reminder that more must be done to uphold these values central to American culture, and fight back against racism across America in all of its forms.

At Gloucester City Council we stand with the American people in fighting racism and racial injustice wherever it appears. During your recent visit to Gloucester in November 2019, you would have seen the value diversity brings not only to our city, but to society as a whole. At Gloucester City Council we recognize and value the contributions of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) members of our community, and our Equalities Vision and Action Plan seeks to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with BAME communities.

The death of George Floyd has resulted in Gloucester City Council reflecting on how we as a city can continue to advance the voices of those in the BAME community. We have subsequently instituted a Race and Equalities Commission which will continue to fight back against racism and racial injustice in our communities and continue our work towards a more inclusive society.

We would be happy to welcome you back to Gloucester to experience our diverse city once again.

Regards,

Cllr Richard Cook
Leader, Gloucester City Council



AMBASSADOR OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

September 17, 2020

Cllr Richard Cook
Leader
Gloucester City Council
PO Box 3252
Gloucester, GL1 9FW

Dear Cllr Cook,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the death of George Floyd and the subsequent events in the United States.

George Floyd's death was a grave tragedy. As President Trump said, "All Americans were rightly sickened and revolted by the brutal death of George Floyd. My administration is fully committed that, for George and his family, justice will be served. He will not have died in vain." As you know, there are ongoing investigations at the federal and state levels, and four officers have been criminally charged in connection with Mr. Floyd's death. Additionally, Attorney General Barr has announced a federal civil rights investigation.

Mr. Floyd's death is a painful reminder to all of us that we must redouble our efforts to combat racism and injustice. The U.S. Constitution expressly protects the rights of peaceable assembly and petition for a redress of grievances. Throughout American history, our people have gathered peacefully to protest injustice, to demand accountability from our leaders, and to effect change. The United States and free and open societies around the world are strengthened through the debates produced by our citizens exercising their right to free speech, and held accountable through freedom of the press and rule of law.

I appreciate you sharing how the Gloucester City Council has used these events to inspire change in your own community with the creation of a Race and Equalities Commission. My own visit to Gloucester last year was an excellent opportunity to see how a diverse group of dedicated citizens can help build a strong community, and I look forward to visiting again in the future.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Johnson".

Robert W. Johnson
Ambassador

