

Matthew D. Fogal District Attorney

7 June 2020

Dear Franklin County Citizens,

These times are truly unprecedented and silence is acquiescence.

Black Lives Matter. Period. Full stop.

I confess, when I first heard that phrase, my immediate reaction was that "All Lives Matter." I was wrong, and part of the problem. For white Americans, please understand that what you are being asked to meaningfully consider is the unique experience of Black Lives, our fellow Americans. It is not enough to avoid being a racist. I humbly submit that it is likewise not enough to be anti-racist. It is about actual, meaningful change.

To Franklin County demonstrators of this past week, thank you. My office is not far away from the demonstrations in Chambersburg. I purposefully left my window open and heard you. I also heard those motorists honking support all week. This is America, and you have performed a very American act. America weeps with you for the appalling murder of George Floyd, and what it represents. I encourage you to continue in this positive spirit of change and equality, and to not abandon this momentum. Demand that our national and local leaders authentically confront institutional racism. Moreover, expect and demand that they actually do the necessary hard work to finally correct our shamefully failed promise of equality for all citizens. In the midst of this ugly political climate of division and tribalism, thoughtfully choose only those leaders that unite us rather than divide us.

On June 1, 2020, both the United States military and the Holy Bible were grossly misappropriated. An American hero and Patriot, General Jim Mattis, was moved to eloquently comment (<https://www.hoover.org/research/union-there-strength-0>). He was 100% correct in every single sentiment he delivered and I proudly stand with him. For my fellow Republicans, I encourage you to exhibit political courage and never put the party before the country or conscience. In Union There is Strength.

In November, we must vote. We must unite. One Team, One Fight.

May God Bless the UNITED States of America.

Very Respectfully,



Matthew D. Fogal
Franklin County District Attorney