

# TOWN OF AMHERST

Erie County, New York

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## Town of Amherst Community Diversity Commission Statement of Diversity *July 2020*

The Amherst Diversity Commission condemns all forms and acts of racial discrimination in our community and the country. We are fully committed to promote policies and programs that support and promote racial equity in our region and beyond.

We vividly remember the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis after Police Officer, Derek Chauvin, choked him under his knee for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. The victim kept pleading that "I can't breathe" to no avail. Additionally, "My daddy changed the world" was the painful message as expressed by Gianna Floyd, George Floyd's six-year-old daughter. How true!

George Floyd's words "I can't breathe" did not die with him but became a national outcry regarding police brutality and racial discrimination against people of color. Our hearts go out to the family of all the victims of police brutality and to all those who have experienced daily reality of brutality, injustice, and racism in our country.

The Town of Amherst's biggest asset is its racially and culturally diverse population. The Amherst Diversity Commission recognizes and honors this diversity and is working on plans and programs to celebrate our diversity.

The Diversity Commission fully endorses and supports Town of Amherst Supervisor and Amherst Town Board's decision to make Juneteenth a Town holiday in 2021. Furthermore, the Commission will prepare an appropriate and meaningful commemoration of that event. All Amherst residents are invited and welcome to submit suggestions that would accomplish this goal.