**In the end we will remember, NOT the words of our enemies,**

**but the SILENCE of our friends.**

**--- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

The events of the past few weeks, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, have laid bare the realities that black and brown communities have lived with for decades. Structural racism and inequity have had their knees on the necks of these communities far too long. Injustice demands that we do something. We cannot remain silent.

New Hope’s mission, creating communities free from violence and exploitation, has never been more relevant. We grieve with the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. We stand with the countless black and brown lives who are affected by systemic racism and oppression. New Hope recommits itself to doing the hard work of holding ourselves accountable as we work to confront racial injustice. We recommit to listening to the voices of those who have been silenced for too long. We recommit to using our power and privilege to change systems that perpetuate violence and racial inequity.

If you are reading this statement, I urge you to educate yourselves and to advocate for the “creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes, and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment, and outcomes for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, or the community in which they live.  We have much work to do, and to quote Dr. King again, “we shall overcome.” Won’t you join us in this important work?