

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STATEMENT FROM BILL HARMER
Westport Library Executive Director**

Westport, CT - The senseless murder of George Floyd once again highlights the racial injustices that continue to plague us in cities and towns across the nation.

The core mission of the public library is to create a nation of informed and active citizens. Like a compass, we point the way toward a better society that is founded in knowledge and demonstrates respect for diverse peoples and views. By fulfilling this responsibility, we provide a fundamental opportunity for each of us to meaningfully contribute to the success of our democracy.

While much of our political discourse is seemingly fractious, the public library stands firm as a beacon to inspire citizens to seek common ground in order to help meet the challenges of our time. In this way, libraries function as an essential equalizer in our society.

In these unprecedented times, we are asking that you join us in fortifying our mission by standing together to shape and determine who we are and what we will become. By supporting and promoting inclusion and equity, we will be playing an active role in creating a better future for all Americans.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay strong.

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