



Letter to the Falmouth Community

June 3, 2020

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the Town Council, I am writing to update you on two time sensitive matters taken up by the Council at this morning's meeting.

In the first, the Council adopted a temporary emergency zoning ordinance that will allow Falmouth restaurants and retailers to operate outdoors this summer. This initiative is to provide relief for businesses seeking to operate more productively during the Governor's phased reopening plan. If you are able, please support these local businesses (while socially distancing, of course.)

In the second, the Council received a staff report from Police Chief John Kilbride regarding the Falmouth Police Department's involvement in responding to the protests in Portland. Chief Kilbride confirmed that over the past two nights Falmouth officers have been deployed to assist the Portland Police Department in supportive (as opposed to frontline) roles. These deployments are made pursuant to longstanding mutual aid agreements among Cumberland County communities. Chief Kilbride made clear that the Falmouth Department's goals in this work are to serve and protect Greater Portland community members, including the peaceful protesters who are gathering to exercise their First Amendment rights.

Over the coming weeks and months, Town leadership is committed to participating in a dialogue with residents, the Falmouth Police Department, the School Department, Town staff, and regional and state leaders, to consider whether and to what extent our institutionalized systems serve all residents and are aligned with our community's values. We welcome all residents' involvement in this work so that together we can help make our Town, our broader community, and our state a safer and more equitable place for all.

Kind regards,

Amy Kuhn, Chair
Falmouth Town Council