



Letter to the Falmouth Community

June 12, 2020

Good afternoon,

I am writing on behalf of the Town Council to provide an update on Falmouth's strategy to review and evaluate racial equity issues in our Town government.

Earlier this year, the Falmouth Police Department began reviewing all policies and training protocols in preparation for an accreditation process this fall. This timely internal review will now include a greater focus on policies and practices encompassing all operational standards for the Department, reflective of best practices for law enforcement within Maine and across the country. Later next week, relevant Department policies will be posted on the Town's website, to enhance transparency and provide important information for the public.

In recent weeks, the Town has received a number of inquiries from residents regarding specific Department policies such as use of force, police officer training, and officer accountability. The Department has prepared a Q&A document to answer these questions, which can be found [here](#).

Next week, the Town will announce a meeting date for the Town Council and the community to have a discussion with the Town Manager and Police Department about Falmouth Police Department training, transparency, policies, and current challenges. I expect this forum will happen within the next month.

Later this summer, when the Town Council meets for its annual summer work plan retreat, we will plan additional efforts and community-wide discussions to better understand the functions, policies, and practices of all Town services. This will include partnering with an entity with expertise in this area to review our policies and provide educational programming on systemic racism and implicit bias. We will offer this educational programming to the Town Council, board and committee volunteers, Town staff and the general public.

Finally, for your information, the Falmouth School Department, through its Falmouth Schools Intercultural Committee, has released a statement on its engagement on these issues. That letter can be found [here](#).

We look forward to moving forward as a community through reflection, discussion, and change wherever it is needed. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the [Council](#) or to [me](#) personally if you have questions, concerns or ideas.

Kind regards,

Amy Kuhn, Chair
Falmouth Town Council