



AMBASSADOR OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
LONDON

September 17, 2020

Cllr Richard Cook  
Leader  
Gloucester City Council  
PO Box 3252  
Gloucester, GL1 9FW

Dear Cllr Cook,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter regarding the death of George Floyd and the subsequent events in the United States.

George Floyd's death was a grave tragedy. As President Trump said, "All Americans were rightly sickened and revolted by the brutal death of George Floyd. My administration is fully committed that, for George and his family, justice will be served. He will not have died in vain." As you know, there are ongoing investigations at the federal and state levels, and four officers have been criminally charged in connection with Mr. Floyd's death. Additionally, Attorney General Barr has announced a federal civil rights investigation.

Mr. Floyd's death is a painful reminder to all of us that we must redouble our efforts to combat racism and injustice. The U.S. Constitution expressly protects the rights of peaceable assembly and petition for a redress of grievances. Throughout American history, our people have gathered peacefully to protest injustice, to demand accountability from our leaders, and to effect change. The United States and free and open societies around the world are strengthened through the debates produced by our citizens exercising their right to free speech, and held accountable through freedom of the press and rule of law.

I appreciate you sharing how the Gloucester City Council has used these events to inspire change in your own community with the creation of a Race and Equalities Commission. My own visit to Gloucester last year was an excellent opportunity to see how a diverse group of dedicated citizens can help build a strong community, and I look forward to visiting again in the future.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert W. Johnson".

Robert W. Johnson  
Ambassador

