

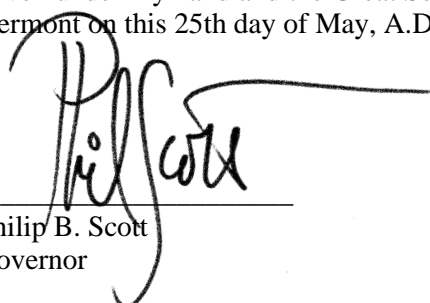
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Mr. George Floyd was an African American man murdered by a police officer while being arrested on May 25, 2020 and his life mattered; and
- WHEREAS,** video of Mr. Floyd’s tragic death, though only one of many such tragedies, sparked grief and outrage throughout the United States and inspired protests speaking to centuries of unheeded calls for equity, change, and safety for communities of color; and
- WHEREAS,** the illegal and abhorrent actions of the police officer were prosecuted and the individual found guilty in a court of law; and
- WHEREAS,** this event also caused states and communities throughout the country, including Vermont, to reevaluate how to modernize the delivery of law enforcement services and create improved policies and practices to better serve our communities; and
- WHEREAS,** legislative actions, including Acts 147, 163 and 166 of 2020, as well as [Executive Order 03-20](#) were implemented to accelerate a series of reforms to modernize law enforcement services in Vermont, and to initiate a comprehensive, ongoing discussion with Vermonters—especially historically marginalized communities—about how law enforcement can best serve the needs of communities; and
- WHEREAS,** these reforms immediately implemented short-term priorities, such as engaging Vermonters in the modernization process; ensuring uniform, statewide policies regarding body-worn cameras and uses of force; improving and standardizing data collection by law enforcement agencies; and bolstering practices for hiring, training and promoting law enforcement officers; and
- WHEREAS,** these initiatives have laid the foundation for a universal reporting portal for improper conduct allegations by police and models for community oversight; and
- WHEREAS,** legislative action in 2021, which addresses all uses of force as well as the use of lethal force, including chokeholds, will implement one of the most stringent use of force laws in the country and the Vermont State Police are committed to continuing their leadership in the area of fair and impartial policing; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Floyd’s death sparked a much-needed national conversation and reckoning on the systemic racism and bias that still exist and inspired a range of actions and reforms; and
- WHEREAS,** on the anniversary of Mr. Floyd’s death, while we remember this loss and reflect on progress, we must also remember that much work remains to ensure fair, equitable and just policing and justice under the law.

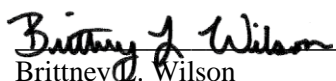
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim May 25, 2021 as

GEORGE FLOYD REMEMBRANCE DAY
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 25th day of May, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs