

JAMES A. DIOSSA
MAYOR



JOSHUA J. GIRALDO
CHIEF OF STAFF

CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR'S OFFICE

580 BROAD STREET
CENTRAL FALLS, RI 02863

OFFICE: (401) 727-7455
FAX: (401) 727-7422

EXECUTIVE ORDER
Reviewing Use of Force Policies and
Police and Community Relations in Central Falls
2020-0009

WHEREAS, the horrific death of George Floyd has rightly catalyzed our city, state and nation to question the racism within the criminal justice system and the innocent lives that have been lost; and

WHEREAS, nearly 250 cities, towns, counties and tribal nations in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia have accepted the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, launched by President Obama in 2014, to address persistent opportunity gaps facing people of color and to work across sectors and organizations to convene leaders, identify effective strategies, and affect systems change in local communities; and

WHEREAS, the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, called on Mayors across the nation to sign on to the My Brother's Keeper Alliance and the Obama Foundation's Commit to Action campaign which calls for elected officials and police oversight bodies to address police use of force policies in the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Foundation's Commit to Action campaign notes that, out of the over 1,000 people that are killed by police each year in the United States, Black people are three times more likely to be killed than White people; and

WHEREAS, I have signed President Obama's pledge to review and take action regarding use of force policies and police and community relations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Central Falls has taken affirmative steps to reduce racism during my administration including becoming a nationally accredited police department, signing into law changes to the hiring process to encourage greater diversity, decriminalizing our city's criminal code and expanding our department's presence in the community through community policing and school resource officers.

NOW THEREFORE, I, James A. Diossa, Mayor of the City of Central Falls, pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 30-15-13, as well as Sections 4-100 and 102 of the Central Falls Home Rule Charter, declare and order the following, effective immediately:

1. The Policing and Use of Force Commission is constituted with 13 members.

2. The members shall include

- a. Pastor Bishop Stephen Harper, New Life Church
- b. Loretta Johnson, Resident
- c. James Vincent, NAACP Providence Branch
- d. The City Solicitor
- e. Denise Debarros, Central Falls Schools
- f. The Chief of Police
- g. Councilwoman Jessica Vega
- h. Sal Monteiro, Nonviolence Institute
- i. Emily Santelises-Ramos, Principal, Veterans Elementary School
- j. Leslie Moore, Resident
- k. Two students from Central Falls Schools
- l. Attorney General Peter Neronha (advisory non-voting member)

3. The mission of the Commission shall be as follows:

- a. REVIEW police use of force policies and police/community relations; and
- b. ENGAGE our communities by including a diverse range of input, experiences, and stories in the review; and
- c. REPORT the findings of the review to our community and seek feedback; and
- d. If necessary, REFORM our community's police use of force policies and/or any other relevant policy or law.

4. The Commission shall release a final report to the public, published on the city's website, no later than 90 days from the date of this Order.

5. The Commission shall adhere to the Open Meetings Act and encourage public participation for all meetings.



James A. Diossa
MAYOR

Dated: July 27, 2020