



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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Dear Fairfax Community,

“Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.” - **John Lewis**

In his Eulogy for John Lewis, Barack Obama recounted his last conversation with the Congressman. Obama told him: “in this moment, we are seeing people in our big cities and rural towns taking to the streets, men and women, young and old, straight Americans and LGBTQ Americans, Blacks who long for equal treatment and whites who can no longer accept freedom for themselves while witnessing the subjugation of fellow Americans.”

Obama reminds us that real courage comes from people trying to be better, truer versions of ourselves. John Lewis taught us not to “turn on each other, but turn towards each other, and not to sow hatred and division, but to spread love and truth.”

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd, John Lewis’s words are particularly profound and reverberate throughout the Country. This intergenerational Black Lives Matter movement powered by raw energy, vision, anger, solidly grounded in an understanding of the history of the oppression of BIPOC, is predominantly youth led. Reading through dozens of John Lewis’s speeches and quotes, his timeless words speak to this moment in time and provide wise guidance for a way forward.

“By appealing to conscience and standing on the moral nature of human existence, nonviolence nurtures the atmosphere in which reconciliation and justice become actual possibilities.”

— **John Lewis**

The intersectionality of the COVID 19 pandemic, it’s grossly disproportionate effect and number of cases in Marin’s Latinx community, the vulnerability and fear we ALL feel about becoming infected and infecting others, and the simultaneous cry for racial equity and social justice throughout the County requires a collective response. There is no untangling the threads of the challenges we face, and no exemptions from the calls to action to be taken on a multitude of fronts.

This said, I am proud to report that volunteerism in Fairfax is at an all-time high and growing.

We have 23 community members who have applied to participate in the newly formed Racial Equity Social Justice Committee and all will be interviewed on August 12th. We have people sewing masks and ready to distribute to community members, businesses and visitors. We have people assisting businesses to set up safe social distanced outdoor dining and shopping spaces, and 150 volunteers still standing by to assist those in need of help with groceries, or to provide moral support and connection. A former Town Council member often said that Fairfax has an “embarrassment of riches”. We are indeed blessed.

Thank you Fairfax for rising to the occasion, and playing your part, and please go to [www.townoffairfax.org](http://www.townoffairfax.org) to see how you can get involved.

Renee Goddard

Mayor of Fairfax