

# YORK COUNTY COAST STAR

## **Letter: Inspired by local demonstration**

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**June 12, 2020**

**—Robert Lyons, Kennebunk**

The sight of 150 citizens lying down on the street for nine minutes in front of Kennebunk Town Hall as traffic was stopped by officials while names were read of men and women of color who have died at the hands of police was an historic event.

That the citizens were joined by Kennebunk Police Chief Robert MacKenzie, Select Board Chair Blake Baldwin and Town Manager Michael Pardue along with Kennebunkport Police Chief Craig Sanford and Town Manager Laurie Smith gives immutable witness to the struggle of Americans who have outlived the failure of all their hopes — and yet still hope for justice and equality.

Rachel Flint McGlashan, organizer of this demonstration against racism summed it up: “People across the country are standing up, saying it has to stop. No more, it has to stop.”

Uruguayan journalist Eduardo Galeano wrote of these human struggles for justice and equality: “No history is mute. No matter how much they burn it, break it, and lie about it, human history refuses to shut its mouth. Despite deafness and ignorance, the time that was continues to tick inside the time that is. Memory is in the air we breathe, and from the air it breathes us.”

The next citizen demonstration should be to vote in the July 14 primary and the national election Nov. 3. Kennebunk Town Clerk Merton Brown makes it very easy to vote simply by submitting a request for ballots to be mailed to registered voters. The positive energy generated in Kennebunk and across the nation this week gives some hope.