



**SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
OF  
SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS  
June 5, 2020**

**AN ORDER TO LOWER ALL SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT FLAGS TO HALF-STAFF IN REMEMBRANCE OF MINNEAPOLIS RESIDENT GEORGE FLOYD AND IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM EFFORTS ACROSS SHELBY COUNTY.**

**WHEREAS**, Shelby County Government recognizes a long history of racial injustice that continues to negatively affect African Americans across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in Downtown Memphis, Shelby County, TN while advocating for equality, fair wages, and education; and

**WHEREAS**, the murder of George Floyd was captured on video on Monday, May 25, 2020 as bystanders watched a Minneapolis police officer pin George Floyd to the ground and block his airways for over eight minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, this administration recognizes that George Floyd's death is one of a disturbing number of cases in which African Americans are racially profiled, pulled over, surveilled, placed in handcuffs, and even killed for over 50 years in America; and

**WHEREAS**, this administration has led various criminal justice reforms to reduce the local jail population to historically-low levels, has implemented measures to reduce arrest warrants, and has worked to "ban the box" in an effort to reintegrate ex-offenders into society; and

**WHEREAS**, residents in Shelby County organized a series of peaceful protests across Shelby County in response to George Floyd's death in an effort to help lift concerns about racial injustice and demand that local government and agencies do more to ensure fair criminal justice practices; and

**WHEREAS**, this administration supports peaceful protesters and believes there is more work to do, work that will require all of Shelby County to move in lockstep and unite to enact necessary reforms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee Harris, Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III §§ 3.01 and 3.02 of the Shelby County Charter, do hereby order and direct that all flags bearing the Great Seal of Shelby County be lowered to half-staff beginning at sundown on June 8, 2020 until sundown June 10, 2020. This action will serve to memorialize the life and untimely death of George Floyd and others afflicted by racial injustice in Shelby County and this country.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and cause the Great Seal of the County of Shelby to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.**

**Lee Harris  
Mayor of Shelby County**