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**Janice A. DiGiuseppe**  
Mayor

## *Township of Mansfield*

--County of Burlington--  
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June 5, 2020

Dear Residents of Mansfield Township:

As a result of a notice posted that a Vigil remembering George Floyd has been scheduled for Sunday at 6:00 PM in a Municipal Park in Mansfield Township, I want to provide clarification to residents on this matter.

The notice was posted without any authority from the Township Committee or the Township Police Department. It erroneously informed that government and police would have speakers when no one from either entity was asked nor provided approval to officially speak. Neither the Township, nor the Police Department, are officially sanctioning this event in a municipal park. It is being developed and managed by a private resident. However, there will be township police presence for safety reasons.

In the aftermath of the publishing of the notice, the Township and Police Department sought township legal assistance as well as legal advice from the County Prosecutor's Office primarily because the municipal parks are closed and have been closed in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders and relevant restrictions.

The legal opinions received provided that the constitutional right to protest cannot be waived, but the restrictions regarding a maximum of 25 individuals in a gathering, performing social distancing, and wearing masks, will not violate the Executive Orders. However, any failure to comply with the restrictions may result in a violation. Further, should any violence occur causing a warrant to be issued, the organizer(s) will be held accountable.

The Township is mindful of everyone's constitutional right to protest for a cause in which one believes. At the same time, it is also mindful that such a protest is to be enacted in a peaceful and gracious manner.

All be well and safe.  
Janice DiGiuseppe  
Mayor

JAD/j