

Statement to B Square Beacon 06-04-20 5:15 p.m.

Re: Special County Council meeting 06-04-20 at 1:00pm

BLM was alerted about the special County Council meeting late last night by a concerned community member. Widespread coordination on social media about the issue this morning ensured that residents of Monroe County emailed the Councillors and over 250 people attended the Zoom meeting to express their concern. This is a great example of community activism in action on the local level. A BLM core council member was in the zoom meeting and was able to speak to the suspicious timing of attempting to hire new officers. Additionally a few other local Black activists and leaders were also able to talk directly about the local police and the interconnected issues of race, policing and police violence. Ultimately, the withdrawal of the proposal is a success for the whole community. However, there are still questions surrounding the need for additional police in the light of the outbreak of Police violence at the recent national protests. This conversation about limiting, defunding and abolishing the police is overdue in Monroe County. We need to push this conversation forward and talk about moving away from historic policing towards community defense.

~BLM B-town Core Council