



Dear Englewood Public Library patrons and community members,

The recent killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and far too many Black Americans throughout the entirety of American history is a national tragedy that must be addressed.

Systemic racism pervades our entire society and we acknowledge that at the Englewood Public Library we have a role to play in working toward true equity and justice in our country. As an institution that focuses on education and community gathering, we commit to:

- Evaluating and continually reevaluating our collections and programming to ensure that the voices of Black authors, speakers, and teachers are heard and shared.
- Working together with members of the community to plan programming that allows for community dialogue around the topic of systemic racism, both in a historical context and with regard to systemic racism in the present day.
- Providing opportunities for staff training to recognize implicit bias, racial equity, and other important and related topics.
- Documenting the history of Englewood, including photos, writings, and other materials from recent Marches and Protests held in May and June of 2020 regarding racial injustice and violence.
- Working together with community leaders to create an ongoing dialogue about racism that makes Englewood, New Jersey, and our country stronger.

Black lives matter. This work must be sustained and ongoing to ensure that we are truly working toward an equitable society.

We welcome your thoughts, feedback, ideas and suggestions and we hope you will join us in these efforts.

You can reach our library director, John Arthur, at Arthur@englewood.bccls.org.

Sincerely,

The Englewood Public Library Board of Trustees

John Arthur, Director, Englewood Public Library