

# LT. GOVERNOR ZUCKERMAN NEWSLETTER

## June 2, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Friends,

The murder of George Floyd is a horrific reminder of how far we are from racial equity here in Vermont and around the country. I am outraged at the loss of life and the persistent unequal treatment of our Black and Brown brothers and sisters.

Systemic racism and disproportionate arrests of and violence toward people of color must be addressed in our criminal justice system and society at large. We must address the disproportionate and unjustified killings of our black and brown brothers and sisters and implement systems of accountability now.

### **Racial Justice Roundtable**

What I'd like to do is lead a conversation on how we can move forward together to drive positive change. Join me **Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for a live conversation with Captain Garry Scott, Director of Fair and Impartial Policing for Vt. State Police and Vermont Director of Racial Equity, Xusana Davis.** The conversation will focus on policies the Vermont State Police have been implementing over the last decade, outcomes from those policies and what Vermont must do to improve our outcomes and address racial and implicit bias in our state. We'll stream the Racial Justice Roundtable live on [Facebook](#).

### **Letter in Support of Educators**

I recently sent a **letter in support of educators** to UVM President Garimella where I suggest that any cuts needed could be more easily sustained by those making the highest salaries, rather than those at the lowest pay levels. You can read the letter [here](#).

### **Economic Development**

I recently sent an economic development op-ed to the press. It included three proposals for investment of the \$1.25 billion CARES funds Vermont is to receive. You can read the letter [here](#).

1. **Fiber Optic Broadband Expansion**-Access to broadband is key to educational access in these times. Coronavirus Relief Aid provides us with an opportunity to move beyond talk and into action. This investment is essential to ensure that all Vermonters are able to learn virtually and work remotely.

### **FACEBOOK LIVE UPDATES**

**TUESDAY,  
JUNE 9, 11:30**

**THURSDAY,  
JUNE 11, 10:30**

Join us for regular updates on what the State is doing to help Vermonters during the COVID-19 pandemic at these Facebook Live Events. Go to: [www.facebook.com/VTLtGov/](http://www.facebook.com/VTLtGov/) to tune in.

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#### **Thursday, June 4, 7 AM**

Live on 'The Morning Drive with Kurt and Marcus,' WVMT 93.6 FM or 620 AM

#### **Thursday, June 4, 10 AM Racial Justice Roundtable**

with Captain Garry Scott, Director of Fair and Impartial Policing and Community Affairs, VT State Police, Xusana Davis, Director of Racial Equity – streamed live on [Facebook](#)

#### **Friday, June 5, 2:00 PM**

The Department of Economic Development will host a [virtual town hall](#) to share **updates about the Paycheck Protection Program**

If you find this newsletter helpful, please feel free to forward it on and let people know they can sign up to receive future newsletters and updates at [www.lt.gov.vermont.gov](http://www.lt.gov.vermont.gov)

2. **Direct Assistance to Unemployed Vermonters**-More than 90,000 Vermonters are unemployed, Vermont's unemployment rate is estimated to be as high as 27%. The CARES Act has expanded the social safety net by broadening and increasing unemployment insurance. Unfortunately, key provisions of the ACT related to unemployment compensation will soon expire. While the wrangling continues in Washington, we need to consider how we could best use some of the Aid monies received by the State of Vermont to "soften the blow" for unemployed Vermonters. This money will primarily recirculate in Vermont and that too will help the broader economy.
3. **Food Security**-One of the starkest consequences of the pandemic is hunger. At the federal level, the Families First and CARES Acts are supporting efforts to feed hungry Americans. But more needs to be done. The food security of Vermonters is dependent on state and federal efforts to expand and reform the 3SquaresVT program, including increasing benefits to participants. The State also must play a more active role in organizing a long-term and sustainable program that links restaurants, farmers, and hungry/vulnerable Vermonters. Food security needs to be a pillar of Vermont's Economic Recovery Plan to help now and make Vermont more resilient for the future.

I will continue to listen carefully to my fellow Vermonters, and I look forward to being actively engaged as this extremely important discussion continues. Please contact my office if you are in a situation where you need help. Your Representatives, Senators and I are all working hard to try to help individuals as well as figure the best way forward to safely rebuild and reopen our state so that the need for food lines will diminish. For more information on future food distribution locations please go [here](#). Please also visit my [Facebook page](#) for recent updates with many links in the comments section for help for individuals, businesses, visitors, camping, and so many other constantly changing parameters of the state orders.

We need to continue to be careful. We still must keep physical distance, wear masks, wash hands and watch out for the vulnerable.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Zuberwan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.