STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF LIBERTY

P R O C L A M A T I O N

George Floyd Day

**WHEREAS:** On May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, George Floyd died of injuries sustained during a showing of excessive and unnecessary force by officers of the Minneapolis Police Department. Mr. Floyd was pinned to the ground by neck by an officer for 8 minutes and 45 seconds; and

**WHEREAS:** Police brutality has taken many forms in the course of human history and accountability for the actions of law enforcement at the local, state and federal level should be the status quo rather than a rare sight. In all forms, the brutalizing of citizens by those sworn to protect and serve them is abhorrent; and

**WHEREAS:** In the 20th century, the United States saw several periods of civil unrest and protest in response to many human rights issues raised by marginalized groups both domestically and abroad. We, as a society, watch division and disunity create chasms in our society during the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam Conflict, the Cold War, the Stone Wall Riots, the Rodney King Riots and more. These are just some instances where the American people faced uncomfortable truths about themselves and each other, sometimes with permanent solutions and sometimes with more questions; and

**WHEREAS:** Liberty County, Georgia, has a rich history of involvement in the shaping of our nation’s destiny, serving as the home of two signers of the Declaration of Independence and the US Army’s 3rd Infantry Division and hosting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Dorchester Academy in during a period of respite from the Civil Rights Movement; and

**WHEREAS:** It is because of this rich history that Hinesville and Liberty County, Georgia are a melting pot of race, creed, color, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation – boasting a colorful array of citizens and residents, all of which our government institutions have sworn to serve and protect; and

**WHEREAS:** The Liberty County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly supports our citizens’ and residents’ right to peaceful assembly and protest to raise awareness of social issues plaguing our society at a local, state and national level. It is a right protected by the US Constitution and we welcome open dialogue between citizens, residents, staff and leadership from local, state and federal government; and

**WHEREAS:** We know that the pain of our citizens is not our problem to deal with, it is our problem to fix, and trust is a bridge more easily burned than built; and

**WHEREAS:** The Liberty County Board of Commissioners seeks to build bridges of trust between its leadership, law enforcement and citizenry to better serve the community we love and ensure that the tragedy of George Floyd is one that is never repeated.

**NOW, THEREFORE I, Donald L. Lovette**, Chairman of the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim May Twenty-Fifth as:

George Floyd Day

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in Liberty County and invite all citizens to stand up for justice and equality for all citizens and end the cycle of hatred and inequality in our country.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of Liberty County to be affixed this 2nd day of June, 2020.

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Joseph W. Brown Donald L. Lovette

County Administrator Chairman