



The
MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH
of
WEST NEWTON

July 17, 2020

Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D - 3rd Suffolk)
24 Beacon St.
Room 243
Boston, MA, 02133

Representative Claire D. Cronin (S - 11th Plymouth)
24 Beacon St.
Room 136
Boston, MA, 02133

Dear Members of the Committee,

In this moment of unprecedented citizen activism and worldwide acknowledgement of Black anguish, we must act to pass the strongest bills that ensure police accountability and antiracist policies. To this end, we must pass S2820, an act to reform police standards and shift resources to build a more equitable, fair and just commonwealth that values Black lives and communities of color.

As the Senior Pastor of the historic Myrtle Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American congregations in New England, this issue is not only a matter of politics; this is a matter of moral urgency. In order to redeem the soul of our Commonwealth, antiracism must be the guiding principle of our public policy. Therefore, S2820 is a legislative expression of the moral claim that Black Lives Matter.

We have seen how Black Lives have been abused, targeted, incarcerated and economically exploited in our own state. In Boston, the median net worth of a white household is \$247,500, while the median net worth of a Black household is \$8. If we do not address this issue by passing bills such as S2820, we will perpetuate a system that is replete with great inequity.

In conclusion, I urge you to pass S2820 because the lives of Black children matter. Massachusetts faces a moral decision to create a more just and equitable world for those coming after us. We must do that by passing legislation that is sustainable into the next generation. To pass S2820 is a moral decision to stand on the right side of history.

Respectfully,



Reverend Brandon Thomas Crowley, PhD
Senior Pastor, The Historic Myrtle Baptist Church of West Newton

Spiritual Philanthropists,
REACHING UP, OUT AND WITHIN