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**For Immediate Release**  
**June 5, 2020**

**BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP** - Late Thursday afternoon, after several calls with different jurisdictions, we became aware that President Trump was canceling his weekend trip to Bedminster. While we do anticipate there will still be demonstrations in Bedminster over the weekend, his change of plans should de-escalate the situation.

Public demonstrations and free speech are guaranteed under the First Amendment. Over the past three years, the "free speech" zone established at the intersection of Route 206 and Lamington Road has supported the right of public assembly for many gatherings, which have run the gamut of the political spectrum. Those gatherings have been peaceful and, as such, are welcomed.

Law enforcement is certainly aware of the social media posts that are encouraging violence. These posts are meant to threaten and intimidate, and are therefore being monitored. While none have yet proven credible, if any are determined to be legitimate, we have been assured the public will be notified and law enforcement will take appropriate action to protect our residents and their property. As we articulated in our last statement, advocating for an end to the disparate treatment of minorities and the illegal use of force by law enforcement is an honorable cause that should be lawfully supported. Let's not have anonymous social media threats denigrate well-intentioned peaceful demonstrations.

The Bedminster Police Department will have increased visibility this weekend, but will not be taking action to interfere with legitimate public assembly. As we previously stated, we do not expect any problems to occur, but law enforcement must be prepared for all eventualities.

If there are additional developments that change the situation, we will issue a new statement. Be assured that the Bedminster Police Department's mission to protect our residents and their property remains paramount.

We wish all our residents a safe and healthy weekend.

Bedminster Police Chief Karl Rock

Bedminster Mayor Larry Jacobs