

George Floyd's America

The Bethlehem Gadfly George Floyd killing November 22, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts in the wake of the George Floyd murder* 

George Floyd died 6 months ago this week. Gadfly's been worried that the impact of that dramatic event and the subsequent national reckoning with race is ebbing on the local level.

There may be some relevant public safety discussion in upcoming budget hearings, a Public Safety Committee hearing is promised for early in the new year, but Gadfly is not aware of any movement on the Community Engagement Initiative yet.

There is nationally as well as locally conflict over whether such a thing as "systemic racism" exists.

This 6-part Washington Post series ran in October.

Gadfly is going to suggest that you follow him as he reads one part of the series each day beginning tomorrow to keep both George Floyd and the idea of systemic racism on our front burner.

Washington Post staff, "George Floyd's America:

Examining systemic racism and racial injustice in the post-civil rights era"

The Washington Post's six-part series, "George Floyd's America," examines the role systemic racism played throughout Floyd's 46-year life. The reporting explores the institutional and societal roadblocks Floyd encountered as a Black man from his birth in 1973 until his death. The series is based on a review of thousands of documents and more than 150 interviews with Floyd's friends, colleagues, public officials and scholars.

- *"Born with two strikes: How systemic racism shaped Floyd's life and hobbled his ambition"*
- *"Looking for his ticket out: At Jack Yates High, No. 88 pinned his dreams on sports"*
- *"Segregated from opportunity: Nearly three decades after George Floyd first left Cuney Homes, another generation tries to make it out of Houston's oldest housing project"*
- *"Profiting from prisoners: Communities and companies made money off George Floyd's imprisonment. Inside, Floyd withered"*
- *"Racism's hidden toll: In Minneapolis, the physical and mental strain of a lifetime confronting racism surfaced in George Floyd's final years"*
- *"A knee on his neck: Police were a part of George Floyd's life from beginning to end, an experience uncommon for most Americans, except other Black men"*