

GRIEVING. ANGRY. STRONG. RESOLUTE.

These are just four words to describe the tone of the African American community throughout this country. While it has been encouraging to see the diaspora of non-Black people sharing our outrage, we remain focused on why we've gotten to this point. Protest in any form (violent or non-violent) is the effect. The CAUSE is centuries of mistreatment and violence perpetrated by America that has sought to resign African-American citizens to second class citizenship. What is coming to the surface for some Americans has been commonplace for Black citizens of America. THAT is telling!

The public lynching of George Floyd at the knee of a racist, vile Minneapolis FORMER police officer, is the culmination of innumerable years of inhumane treatment. From slavery to mass incarceration, from redlining to police brutality, from Emmett Till to George Floyd, from the Tuskegee Experiment to COVID-19, from the Black Codes to income inequality, America has made it blatantly clear that the humanity of African Americans is to be restricted to second class status. NO MORE!

Since the first Africans were brought to America in 1619, "freed" in 1865, through today ... we are still fighting for our God-given rights to be treated on an equal plane as white Americans. We have reached an absolute tipping point. We have asked. We have made moral appeals. NO MORE!

We are demanding without compromise. By any means necessary!

We send our love, prayers, and heartfelt condolences to the family of George Floyd and ALL families, those publicly known and unknown, that have suffered the loss of a loved one due to violence perpetrated by purveyors of white privilege. There are simply too many to list here. TOO MANY – that's disgraceful!

We welcome the efforts of non-Black allies to engage in proactive, sustained, and genuine efforts to resolve the issues of racism and white privilege in America. These are issues that were not caused by Black American citizens. It is not our burden to fix the resulting damage. To our fellow Americans of European descent, we cite James Baldwin's iconic quote, "I can't believe what you say, because I see what you do." Simply put, it is time for Americans of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to PICK A SIDE!

To express your appeal for justice, we invite you to contact these three key officials:

- Michael Freeman, Hennepin County District Attorney – 612.348.5550
- Jacob Frey, Mayor of Minneapolis – 612.673.2100
- Tim Waltz, Governor of Minnesota – 651.201.3400

In solidarity,