

DMFHC's Statement Regarding George Floyd and Racial Inequality

On the hills of the midday modern day lynching of Mr. George Floyd as the world viewed one of the greatest miscarriages of justice at the hands of four law-enforcement officers sworn to protect and serve; the question that must be asked and held into account is who was protecting Mr. George Floyd?

Mr. Floyd's murder is just the latest in a heartbreaking long list of Black Americans killed at the hands of police. Others over just the past few weeks include Tony McDade, Sean Reed, and Breanna Taylor.

We continue to witness time and time again the weaponization of race by White Americans against Black Americans, as was the case with Amy Cooper in Central Park, NY. In February, Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed by two White men while jogging; it took months and a public outcry for law enforcement to act in that case, after an unbeknownst video by an accomplice later surfaced.

It is clear, that the protests taking place nationwide and locally here in Colorado are not only about George Floyd's murder; his killing was a testimony to the many injustices suffered by marginalized communities that became the tipping point in America but felt by the world.

The justified unrest we are now witnessing is the culmination of centuries of unjust practices, lack of enforcement of civil rights laws, and structural racism that serves as a barrier to advancement for people of color.

Residential segregation *is* the bedrock of the inequalities we see. The Fair Housing Act, passed in 1968 just seven days after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, sought to ban housing discrimination and dismantle segregation. Failure to enforce its provisions has allowed residential segregation to continue worsening over the years.

As a result, Black Americans are more likely to live in neighborhoods in which they lack access to good schools, clean environments, living wage jobs, quality credit, transit, healthy food options, healthcare, and opportunities to build wealth. Black people disproportionately live in spaces that are under-resourced and toxic. These challenges manifest in real harm and pain for people

Higher rates of infection and mortality from COVID-19, lower net worth, lower life expectancy, and an inability to give children the best education possible, feed families, and be stably housed.

They are compounded by the overt and implicit bias Black Americans often experience at the hands of real estate agents, lenders, law enforcement, health professionals, and others.

It is time to dismantle the system of inequality that plagues our country and replace it with structures that provide fairness and equity for every person. This requires more than passing laws or creating programs.

It requires sustained, effective enforcement of those laws and ensuring that programs and efforts designed to eliminate racism and increase *equity* have the resources and support needed to achieve their goals.

And perhaps a deeper dive is needed to unveil the culture that is systemic among law-enforcement agencies that are protected and insulated by over funded unions that have been extended a political arm of support to almost operate as a secret society; this society runs unchecked with a minimalistic approach to oversight and accountability.

DMFHC's work is centered on dismantling racism and segregation, ending housing discrimination and promoting true equality. We stand in solidarity with every person and organization working to create a nation in which everyone can live in a safe, healthy, well-resourced, resilient neighborhood free from discrimination.

Together as a community of those who live in the Greater-Denver-Metropolitan area we are privileged to co-exist in one of the greatest states in America; but until all have the same freedoms and access to public safety none of us should feel at ease in an America that touts the statement "That all men are created equal" until all men are treated as equals words only serve as words and not truths!