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NAACP

Dane County Branch #36AB

June 3, 2020

THERE COMES A MOMENT FOR REAL, POSITIVE CHANGE...AND THIS IS IT!

The murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer is an unspeakable tragedy. Sadly, police brutality against the Black community has been an ever-present occurrence, dating back to its roots as a method used to preserve the system of slavery.

According to the Kerner Commission following the race riots of the mid-60s, "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal." They got it right, but no one listened. Have we arrived?

Many Americans blamed those riots on outside agitators or young black men. The Commission cited "bad policing practices, a flawed justice system, unscrupulous consumer credit practices, poor or inadequate housing, high unemployment, and voter suppression." All are contributing factors to systemic racism.

The uprisings taking place in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Louisville, Madison, and other cities, large and small across this country are a result of the real anger, fear, sadness, and distrust that have manifested for years throughout our community. Enough is enough because real change is needed. We Are Done Dying.

We Demand:

1. Federal legislation that provides hate crime sanctions, procedures, and penalties in cases of blatant police brutality. The unrest we are seeing today is what happens when the road to justice is too long, drawn-out, and overtly insincere. These uprisings are the result of our communities feeling as though, once again, justice will not be served.
2. Creation of a Dane County Citizens Review Board, with subpoena power, to identify the accountability structures municipalities must have in place.
3. A review of Dane County Police Departments' Use of Force Continuums, ensuring that they have at least 6 levels with clear rules on de-escalation.
4. A Ban on the use of "Knee Holds" and other questionable, potentially lethal methods of restraint in detentions and arrests.

Between 1920 and 1938, the NAACP flew a flag outside its offices that read "A Man Was Lynched Yesterday" to mark the lynching of Black people in the United States. It is a shame on our nation that almost a century later, Black people continue to be brutalized and killed by racists.

We, the undersigned Executive Committee of the Dane County NAACP, pledge to work to end all forms of systemic racism **including** police brutality in Dane County.

Valese Adams

Bill Franks

Rebekah Jones

Ed Murray

Vaunce Ashby

Frances Huntley-Cooper

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis

Charles Myadze

Ron Berger

Greg Jones

Gail Moore

Frank Power

Jeanne Erickson

Gwen Jones

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