



Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
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The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage Statement on the Arrest of All Four Officers Involved in the Murder of George Floyd

The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (the Council) would like to commend Attorney General Keith Ellison for elevating charges against Derek Chauvin and for charging the three other officers who aided in the inhumane and completely preventable murder of George Floyd. Partial justice can never be a substitute for real, substantial justice. Now, with charges being brought against all four officers involved in the George Floyd's murder, we press toward holding these perpetrators of violence accountable.

We are thankful to Governor Tim Walz for visiting the 38th and Chicago memorial and witnessing—firsthand—the love, pain, hope, anger, passion happening in our community. We also thank Senator Paul Gazelka for visiting the community memorial and speaking with, listening to, and praying alongside the people. We are looking forward to working with Senator Gazelka to achieve, as he put it, “justice for the Black community.” We are grateful to the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and Commissioner Rebecca Lucero for launching an investigation into allegations of discriminatory policies and practices in the Minneapolis Police Department. We appreciate Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo for immediately terminating the officers and for speaking out against the deadly injustice George Floyd faced.

Since the death of George Floyd, community members have been organizing protests; protecting people, businesses, and homes; and coordinating fundraisers to support the people and organizations most affected by violence. We also express deep gratitude to the people who have donated time, money and items to our communities. The powerful work of community members is the major reason we are seeing positive change come from this tragic event. The community is the main reason as to why we are seeing mass protests happening across this country. People are tired of being ignored when speaking out against injustice.

True healing cannot occur if we continue to allow the diseases of white supremacy and police brutality to afflict our communities unchecked. Attorney General Ellison's actions were a check on the many instances of police brutality. Our governmental leaders have been making steps toward actual justice and we appreciate their actions. Yet, we understand that steps toward justice are not enough.

As the nation focuses its attention on Minnesota, the Council is calling on lawmakers, advocates and community members to take full advantage of this opportunity. It is our duty to reimagine what is possible in our great state. The work going forward begins with the full prosecution of the officers responsible for the death of George Floyd. The next step will be to ensure that all Minnesotans have a justice system that honors the sanctity of life in policy and practice. Once again, we want to thank Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, Attorney General Ellison, Commissioner Lucero, the POCI Caucus, Chief Arradondo and Sen. Gazelka for their leadership during this crisis.

The Struggle Continues,

Justin Terrell
Executive Director
The Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

Members of the Council

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Vice Chair Wayne Doe
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The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;
- Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;
- Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;
- Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule or order; and
- Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.

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