



June 3, 2020

Dear NAAAP Detroit community and partners,

Today, we write with heavy, broken hearts. News from the past few weeks, which again exposes the brutal anti-Black racism that underlies American society, has us reeling.

On Monday, May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, was apprehended and murdered by four Minneapolis police officers, including an officer of Asian descent. George Floyd's murder, among many other deplorable murders of African Americans, marks yet another shameful incident in the long, painful history of an anti-Black agenda in the U.S., which normalizes the criminalization and dehumanization of Black people. We decry the racist policies that continue to infect our education, health, incarceration, and housing systems and emphatically condemn the harm of police brutality against Black, indigenous, and people of color communities (BIPOC), already suffering disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a community of Asian Americans and allies, NAAAP Detroit was established on the simple yet powerful notion that equity cannot be assured without solidarity, which is both necessary and always possible. At this important juncture—a test of our commitment to our foundational principles—we cannot be silent. Today, we call on our communities and allies, our partners and sponsors, urging police accountability and an insistence that #BlackLivesMatter.

Asian American communities must bolster Black-led justice organizing groups in Minneapolis, Detroit, and cities across the country. As we stand with the Black community, we choose to center George Floyd's life and his family's demands for justice while also working to quash underlying, systemic anti-Blackness. Let us continue to interrogate the oppressive, white supremacist systems responsible for the deaths of George Floyd and countless other Black lives, including Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Philando Castille, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

Along with our partners and collaborators and in the spirit of seeking equity, NAAAP Detroit is committed to developing programming that brings us closer to building authentic solidarity. Now is the time to listen, learn, and direct action toward justice—silence cannot save us.

In solidarity and in power,

Ascended Volition, L3C

Michigan Asian Pacific American Bar Association (MAPABA)

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NAAAP Detroit

Rising Voices of Asian American Families