



From the Desk of NFDW President Cindy Jenks

May 29, 2020

“It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this message today. My heart aches for our country in light of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. It is hard to watch the video of an unarmed Mr. Floyd on the pavement saying that he can’t breathe. Videos also show that George Floyd did not resist arrest.

The outrage of the citizens is understandable, but now this unrest has led to violence that has included the death of a protester. Mayor Jacob Frey’s message on Twitter said ‘... Please, Minneapolis, we cannot let tragedy beget more tragedy.’ Protests have moved throughout our country. George Floyd is only one of many unarmed African Americans that have been killed by police. In recent days, months, and years, there have been many cases of unarmed African Americans that have been shot and killed by law enforcement offices. Amad Aubrey was shot and killed by a former detective while he was jogging in Georgia. An African American woman was shot and killed just two weeks ago when police stormed her house which then turned out they were at the wrong house.

Our justice system is fraught with disparities that treat people of color unfairly. More convictions, longer sentences and inadequate services like job training and counseling add to the existing problems. Black Lives Matter and the callous and inhumane treatment of Mr. Floyd by people who are supposed to protect our citizens, should shock us enough to take our breath away.

We must find ways to keep our citizens safe and treated fairly at all times. We must know that our law enforcement officers have proper training and that they function with the human decency that is implied by those rules and regulations.

Much needed positive change must be enacted within our country. Remember Michael Jackson’s song “Man in the Mirror” Bad (1987)? The song says ... ‘I’m starting with the man in the mirror. I’m asking him to change his way. And no message could have been any clearer, if you wanna make the world a better place take a look at yourself and make a change.’ It is obvious that racism is ingrained in our society and our current President has made no secret of his opinions of minorities.

Let’s take an assessment of our communities to see where we can improve race relations and public safety. Let’s also work hard over these next months to make a change in the leadership at the White House. President Trump once told a gathering of police officers they ... “need not worry about injuring people they are arresting.” Washington Post, July 28, 2017. We need a President who can lead this country in a way that can unite everyone rather than damage this country with his divisive words and actions,” said President Jenks.