



AN OPEN LETTER TO KEY LEADERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS On the Killing of Mr. George Floyd

Chief Madaria Arradondo, Minneapolis Chief of Police
Special Agent Rainer S. Drolshagen, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attorney General Keith Ellison, State of Minnesota
Attorney General Michael Freeman, Hennepin County
Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis
Governor Tim Walz, State of Minnesota

Dear Leaders and Elected Officials:

Since 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has worked, partnered, and protested in order to advance service and advocacy for communities of color in the United States, and internationally, in the areas of youth development, community uplift, equality, social justice, and civil rights.

Since 1912, members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. have been fighting for meaningful change on college campuses and throughout many communities in Minnesota. That purposeful fight continues today through several programmatic offerings in our state such as ACT/SAT Preparatory program (a 29-year post-secondary readiness program), Project Alpha (mentorship program for young men), A Voteless People is a Hopeless People Initiative (voter registration drive in communities of color) and many more.

Today, we write to you as concerned citizens of Minnesota, deeply troubled by the recent killing of George Floyd by former Minneapolis Police Officers Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, Tou Thao, and J. Alexander Kueng. The articulated values of the Minneapolis Police Department are Trust, Accountability, and Professional Service. In the case of Mr. Floyd, trust has been broken. The service delivered to Mr. Floyd was anything but professional, and with the recent termination of the former officers, you have the opportunity to hold them accountable and send a clear message to our communities about the value of all lives. As the world watched the video footage and read the reactions of Minnesotans and people around the country, it is evident that this incident rises above the level of merely disturbing to the level of abhorrent. And now, with protests turning into rebellions/riots, the world is watching our streets erupt in violence, death, and destruction of property, businesses, and community.

Many respected, elected leaders in Minnesota share our sentiments:

- “Being black in America should not be a death sentence.” - Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis.
- “The video of a Minneapolis police officer killing a defenseless, handcuffed man is one of the most vile and heartbreaking images I’ve ever seen.” - Mayor Melvin Carter, City of St. Paul.
- “We heard his repeated calls for help. We heard him say over and over again that he could not breathe. And now we have seen yet another horrifying and gut-wrenching instance of an African American man dying.” - Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senate.
- “The lack of humanity in this disturbing video is sickening. We will get answers and seek justice.” - Governor Tim Walz, State of Minnesota.

After a review of the Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedural Manual, **Section 5-300 (Use of Force)**, we question whether the hiring, training, conduct, and comprehension of said policies are being effectively implemented, monitored and followed. There is room for improvement in all of these areas, as well as relationships between the Minneapolis Police Departments and historically targeted communities in the city.

Our membership in the District of Minnesota, as well as our regional and national bodies are appreciative to those responsible for the swift decision to terminate the employment of the four officers involved in this heinous act that cut short the life of Mr. George Floyd. In addition, we support the investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). And yet, more is required.

The District of Minnesota of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. expects the Minneapolis Police Department to stay true to its values, and we would like to support you in these endeavors. We know this will be a long road and yet we remain hopeful these steps are the beginning of delivering justice to Mr. Floyd's family and indeed all the citizens of Minnesota.

Towards this, we ask:

- That all four former officers are arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- For a process that is fair, transparent, and expedient.
- That energy and resources are found and dedicated to support the healing of economically disadvantaged communities and communities of color that frequently experience trauma and threats to their mental health and physical wellbeing.

Our prayers and hearts go out to the community-at-large, especially the African-American community, to the many groups and individuals that have chosen to join us in this fight for justice. The people of Minnesota are worried, wounded and weary, deserving swift and continued action to address the trauma, destruction, death and systemic oppression and injustice. Now is the time to act! Now is the time for you to act to address the concerns and experiences of our communities, particularly those on the fringes of society.

Lastly, above all, our prayers and hearts go out to the family and friends of Mr. George Floyd.

Sincerely,

The Men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated
The District of Minnesota

CC: Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, State of Minnesota
Mayor Melvin Carter, City of St. Paul
Erica McDonald, United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota
Superintendent Drew Evans, Minnesota Board of Criminal Apprehension