



Find yourself in good company

***Standing for Justice:
Human Relations Council Statement on Systemic Racism and Police Reform***

It is disheartening to see our country in a state of unrest, once again, after the recent appalling and untimely deaths of George Floyd and Rayshard Brooks. The Greenville Human Relations Council shares your grief and our prayers are with our community and the families of these victims. We share your desire for justice and are standing **for** justice and equality; while standing **against** racism, police brutality, and social injustice.

Racism is a social system with manifold dimensions and scope. Racism causes relentless racial discrimination in education, housing, employment, and criminal justice. Racism is a significant social determinant of health as evidenced by the COVID 19 pandemic and violence against people of color. In order to meaningfully and wholeheartedly address this crisis, we must “**name**” it.

What our country is experiencing is a direct result of our **racist** beginning. It is a sore, an injury we have not yet committed to mending. The Greenville Human Relations Council is committed to helping us mend through action, policy, dialogue and collaboration.

Therefore, we, the Greenville Human Relations Council, stand in solidarity with our black colleagues, collaborators and community in the fight against racism, violence and injustice. We are committed to taking actions to create tangible change for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community.

We, the Greenville Human Relations Council, condemn racism and the systemic oppression of black people.

We, the Greenville Human Relations Council, acknowledge that our system has been built to protect white privilege while simultaneously halting the ability for black people to progress the same way.

We, the Greenville Human Relations Council, denounce entrenched bias in law enforcement and **call for** sweeping police reform, to include: the continued prohibition of choke holds; mandated police bystander intervention; and, to limit police response to calls for mental health services, substance abuse, domestic conflict, housing, food insecurity and other services **and to redirect** those calls to professional community resources.

We, the Greenville Human Relations Council, stand in solidarity with those peacefully protesting and demanding change and encourage all to speak out. We also unequivocally believe that **Black Lives Matter**.

Since a budget is an expression of values, the Greenville Human Relations Council commits to working with the Mayor, City Manager, and Council members to express this value through the reallocation of funds to better the community and people of color.

The Human Relations Council is working on your behalf to continually promote positive interactions and inclusiveness within our community.

We commit to: listening; acknowledging and amplifying those silenced and marginalized voices; fighting against injustice; acknowledging privilege and leveraging it for justice for all; demanding civility and empathy in efforts to understand and respect the lived experience of others; and, to work tirelessly for the Greenville we believe in.

Greenville Human Relations Council
Samar Badwan, Chair
Franchine Peña, Vice Chair

