

## JUSTICE RESOLUTION

### **Meet on the Streets, George Floyd Square**

August 7, 2020

Resolution 001

Topic: What does justice look like?

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by former Minneapolis Police Department officers. This event sparked an uprising by the community in protest to systemic racism within the City of Minneapolis (the City). On May 30, 2020, police vehicles drove through the George Floyd memorial in the middle of the night, causing the community to establish barricades to prevent vehicles from entering the intersection. On June 2, 2020, the City of Minneapolis placed cement barricades at the street entrances of George Floyd Square<sup>1</sup> for pedestrian safety. For weeks, city employees and community members engaged in conversations to discuss what happens next and address the needs of the community. On August 6, 2020, city employees informed a handful of community leaders and business owners that despite no consensus, the City intends to remove the barricades the week of August 17th. This resolution outlines demands for justice by community members who do not intend to allow the intersection of 38th Street East and Chicago Avenue South to open up without concrete actions of justice taken by the city in response to the murder of George Floyd.

Whereas, the City killed a man in the street near the intersection of East 38th Street and Chicago Avenue,

Whereas the definition of race equity as provided by the City Council of Minneapolis is, “The development of policies, practices and strategic investments to reverse racial disparity trends, eliminate institutional racism, and ensure that outcomes and opportunities for all people are no longer predictable by race,”<sup>2</sup>

Whereas the City Council of Minneapolis approved a resolution declaring that racism is a public health emergency on July 17th, 2020,<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> George Floyd Square is marked by 37th Street East, 39th Street East, Elliot Avenue South, and Columbus Avenue South.

<sup>2</sup> Glidden. “Amending Title 2, Chapter 21 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Administration: City Coordinator.” Ordinance.  
<https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/722/Race%20and%20Equity%20Division%20Ordinance%20Amended%2012.6.2017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> “City Council Declares Racism a Public Health Emergency.”  
<http://news.minneapolismn.gov/2020/07/17/city-council-declares-racism-a-public-health-emergency/>

Whereas, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) is complicit in the ongoing undermining of public safety and trust for the residents in the George Floyd Square Zone,<sup>4</sup>

Whereas, the City fined local businesses within the George Floyd Square Zone for graffiti and grass height during what is set to be the greatest civil rights movement of modern day, which was started because the City killed George Floyd,

Whereas, County Attorney Mike Freeman has repeatedly committed malfeasance by abdicating his responsibility to prosecute white police officers who have murdered Black civilians, denying black victims of police violence equal protection under the law; Mike Freeman has refused to prosecute the white police officers responsible for the murder of Jamar Clark on November 15, 2015; he refused to prosecute white police officers responsible for the murder of Thurman Blevins Jr. on June 23, 2018 Mike Freeman and others; he has failed to recuse himself as prosecutor of the Minneapolis Police Officers involved in the wrongful killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020; and Mike Freeman has committed malfeasance in willfully sabotaging the prosecution of Derek Chauvin,

Whereas, Drew Evans, Superintendent for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and the Deputy Superintendents of the BCA have worked against and not for families seeking justice for unjust deaths of loved ones caused by the police,

Whereas, the incarceration of Myon Burrell for the murder Tyesha Edwards was predicated on a flawed investigation and a wrongful conviction,

Whereas, the investigations into the unjust police killings of multiple Minnesotans have not been satisfactory to the community.

Whereas, the Minneapolis Police Department keep using excessive force that result in the deaths of black people but do not result in the conviction, arrest, and/or successful prosecution of the involved officers,

Whereas, the people of South Minneapolis, in particular the people of Powderhorn Park, Central, Bryant, and Bancroft neighborhoods, deserve to witness and have access to the trial of the officers charged in the death of George Floyd,

Whereas, the residents of George Floyd Square Zone have endured significant disruption to their wellness and livelihoods since May 26, 2020 because the City killed George Floyd on May 25, 2020,

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<sup>4</sup> The George Floyd Square Zone is marked by the community with the following boundaries: 35th Street East, 42nd Street East, Bloomington Avenue South, and 4th Avenue South.

Whereas, the youth of the George Floyd Zone endured complete disruption of their wellness in the summer of 2020 and endure a community trauma of the City killing a man at a stage in their development where they need extra support to process that trauma,

Whereas, the City ignored the 2019 Livability and Safety Platform Proposal submitted by the South Minneapolis Public Safety Coalition,

Whereas, the Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) grant serves the purpose to, “provide community members and City staff with knowledge and tools to help them cope with trauma-induced stress and respond with more resiliency,”<sup>5</sup>

Whereas, black business owners have endured systematic disenfranchisement, which impedes their ability to thrive as entrepreneurs,

Whereas, the business owners within the boundaries and at the borders of George Floyd Square did not receive equitable city services prior to the killing of George Floyd to ensure equitable opportunity for business growth as other business corridors within the City have received,

Whereas, Agape has provided safety for the community in George Floyd Square in absence of MPD presence,

Whereas, 612-MASH “the Med Tent” has been present since the beginning of the protests providing first-aid to people at the site of the George Floyd Memorial and intend to continue to care for anyone who enters the site through the winter months,

Whereas, on June 19, 2019, Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers was murdered inside the George Floyd Memorial; the responding MPD officers impeded EMS response time, did not establish a crime scene, did not collect any evidence or witness statements, pepper sprayed neighbors who had opened the barricades and were asking for an ambulance, and have passed the investigation to four different police investigators not collecting any evidence up until this point; and they reported that they were met by a "hostile crowd" and that Murphy shot himself, propagating an untrue and hurtful rumor that impeded necessary attention to get justice,

Whereas, we believe that the non-violent protesters of 2016-2017 should not be charged for standing up for justice,

Whereas, Jacob Frey, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, has been silent on the matters that have transpired in the George Floyd Zone, systemic racism, and the evil of anti-blackness since early press conferences,

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<sup>5</sup> “Division of Race & Equity 2019 Year in Review.”  
<http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-225345.pdf>

Whereas, the City attempted to believe that they shut down the streets and have the power to reopen the streets,

Whereas, the George Floyd Memorial is first and foremost a place of protest, not commissioned by the City but by the people against the City,

Whereas, justice as outlined in this document denied or deferred will cause George Floyd Square to remain shut down,

Whereas, where there is no justice, there will be no peace,

**Therefore, be it resolved that the governing leadership of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the State of Minnesota take the following actions toward justice if they want the intersection of 38th Street East and Chicago Avenue South to reopen:**

1. Recall Mike Freeman, Hennepin County Attorney;
2. Fire the following employees of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension:
  - a. Drew Evans, Superintendent
  - b. Dana Gotz, Deputy Superintendent of Minnesota Justice Information Services
  - c. Jeff Hansen, Deputy Superintendent of Investigative Services
  - d. Catherine Knutson, Deputy Superintendent of Forensic Science Services;
3. Provide accountability and transparency in the cases of Christopher Burns (2002), Courtney Williams (2004), Terrance Franklin (2013), Jamar Clark (2015), Philando Castile (2016), Thurman Blevins Jr. (2018), Travis Jordan (2018), Kobe Dimock-Heisler (2019), Brian J. Quinones (2019), George Floyd (2020), and any others as their families decide to speak up;
4. Open an independent investigation into the conviction of Myon Burrell.
5. Establish independent investigation and prosecution of Minneapolis law enforcement, appointed by the Governor of Minnesota;
6. Require law enforcement officers to maintain private, professional liability insurance;
7. Ban the indemnification of law enforcement officers;
8. End qualified immunity;
9. Hold the trial of the four former officers charged in the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis;
10. Invest \$400,000 into the George Floyd Square Zone through the neighborhood associations to create new jobs for young people, which will help deter violence;
11. Invest \$300,000 into the George Floyd Square Zone through the neighborhood associations to provide Undoing Racism training for the black community provided by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond;
12. Adopt and implement the 2019 Livability and Safety Platform Proposal submitted by the South Minneapolis Public Safety Coalition to the City Council;

13. Allocate funds for integrative health services to support residents of the George Floyd Square Zone through the ReCAST grant managed by the Division of Race & Equity;
14. Establish a moratorium on property tax increases for residents of the George Floyd Square Zone for 2 years;
15. Include a rent-to own option in new housing construction for renters;
16. Allocate a facade grant to George Floyd Square to improve the aesthetics of the business corridor;
17. Establish and distribute a contingency fund for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) businesses located in the George Floyd Square according to the needs of each business owner, not their landlords, to ensure the preservation of black-owned businesses and promote race equity;
18. Provide Agape a space for their operations within the George Floyd Square Zone;
19. Gift 612-MASH a blood bank bus or a coach bus to continue care for anyone who enters the memorial site during the winter months;
20. Release the death certificate of Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers;
21. Open and complete an investigation of the murder of Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers;
22. Hold law enforcement accountable for impeding EMS response and the mishandling and delay of Dameon "Murphy Ranks" Chambers case within the zone;
23. Drop the charges against non-violent protesters from 2016-2017;
24. Continue the closure of the intersection of 38th Street East and Chicago Avenue South until after trial of the four officers charged for the murder of George Floyd.

As the city meets our demands for justice, the barricades can be negotiated for removal. If action is not taken by the City to meet our demands for justice, members of the community that live in the George Floyd Square Zone are prepared to maintain street barricades and take the protest of 38th Street East and Chicago Avenue South into the heart of every significant neighborhood that is unbothered by the death of George Floyd or the spirit of anti-blackness involved in his death and that of many others.