



 National Council of Presidents

May 29, 2020

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

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Deborah Catchings-Smith
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Andre Manson
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Dear Attorney General Barr,

We write today to not only express our collective outrage over another senseless act of violence against an African-American citizen but to call on the Department of Justice to intercede and ensure that justice is rendered for the murder of George Floyd. Mr. Floyd, a 46-year-old truck driver, who moved to Minneapolis five years ago looking for more opportunities, was pulled over for an alleged grocery store check forgery call that led to his killing at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. No evidence has surfaced indicating he fits the description of the suspect. His death was captured on bystander video, illustrating the callous disregard for his life and egregious actions of the Minneapolis police officers involved.

We applaud the efforts of Governor Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minneapolis Mayor Mayor Jacob Frey, and many other public officials who have condemned the Minneapolis Police Department for the actions that have taken place. At this point in time, we understand that the officers involved have been fired. That is not enough.

We demand that the remaining officers are arrested and face criminal charges for the death of Mr. Floyd and that the family of George Floyd be heard and receive justice. We appreciate the engagement of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the US Attorney for the District of Minnesota. However, an investigation is only the first step. This was a crime that was preventable and abhorrent, to say the least. The video footage is reprehensible and exposes a bigger issue in our communities- black men being killed during police interactions. We believe the evidence is clear that these officers violated federal law by acting under the color of law to willfully deprive Mr. Floyd of his rights and should face punishment to the greatest extent possible under U.S. criminal law. In addition, we call on the Department to open a civil investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department to explore if this incident represents a pattern or practice of behavior and enter into a consent decree to spur reform and to ensure fair and equitable practices in the police department's interaction with Minneapolis residents.

If ever there was a time for the Department to fulfill its obligation to enforce our laws for the protection of citizens, that time is now.

Sincerely,

The Presidents of the four National Pan-Hellenic Council Sororities, namely: Dr. Glenda Glover, Ph.D., International President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Beverly E. Smith, National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker, International President, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and Deborah Catchings-Smith, International President, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.