

May 28, 2020

I, along with my team members in the Office of Equity and Inclusion join students, colleagues, and community members in expressing our heartbreak after watching the video that captured the actions of Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) officers against George Floyd, which led to his tragic death. Mr. Floyd's killing at the hands of MPD is unconscionable. MPD's inexcusable actions and the escalation of protests in the Twin Cities and other cities around the country are reminders of the long-standing trauma the Black community continues to experience in relation to police aggression. With the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor fresh in our minds, the death of George Floyd has advanced our grief-stricken perspective to one of anger, outrage, and emotional exhaustion.

While words cannot fully capture the full nature of the pain and anger many of us are experiencing, we stand in resolve and solidarity in demanding justice for Mr. Floyd. We acknowledge that systemic race-based violence continues to impact and shape the lives and experiences of our communities of color, including our students and colleagues. The Minnesota State Office of Equity and Inclusion and I stand ready to support our students, colleagues, and community members in committing our efforts to bring about change and dismantle the systems that allow broad inequities including these killings to continue. We have been striving and will continue to strive to build our organizational capacity for equity, social justice, and to denounce racism and violence in all forms. To our African American students and colleagues, we empathize and understand the impact these incidents have on you. We see you and you matter. To all communities of color, allies, and all members of the Minnesota State family, we all need to stand together as we work to advance change and push for justice.

Yours in solidarity,



Dr. Clyde Wilson Pickett
Chief Diversity Officer
Office of Equity and Inclusion