

My fellow DEMCCO members,

The events of the past 2 weeks have been heart-wrenching and have caused us a wide range of emotions including profound sadness, disbelief and unspeakable anger. The killing of George Floyd, an unarmed man, for no reason other than he was black, has led to massive protests, generally peaceful but some not, by people in communities across the nation and the world. Unthinkably, many police forces have responded to even peaceful protests with violence, bodily injury and death. George Floyd's murder is only the latest incident in a long history of racist oppression experienced by African-Americans. This week's protests are a blistering wake-up call. Enough is enough!

As Democrats and activists, this goes against everything we believe in. An inclusive, equitable community is where our differences are experienced as our greatest strength. Unfortunately, we have not realized that community, not even close. We cannot let this current crisis be dismissed as just another in a long line of incidents that temporarily inspires us to change, only to return to business as usual. The moral imperative is that we make an ongoing commitment to bring about the massive changes needed to establish a society where everyone is free and equal.

I call on all DEMCCO members to resolve to do everything we can to make the changes needed to eradicate the inequality experienced by African-Americans. Here are some suggestions:

- First, that we educate ourselves about the continuing reality of racial violence;
- That we call attention to all racial violence and inequities and insist on change;
- Then work with, contribute to and vote for candidates committed to ending racial violence and inequities;
- Finally, work with groups and nonprofits committed to achieving comprehensive social justice.
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What will you do? What should DEMCCO do as a Democratic club? Please email me your responses to info@demcco.org.

In solidarity,
Linda Slater, President