

LINC Statement on the Murder of George Floyd

The Long Island Network for Change (LINC) was formed to bring about social, racial, economic and environmental justice in a society where every individuals' aspirations, opportunities and happiness is valued and promoted. LINC is working to create a society in which its foundational institutions dignify the innate humanity rooted in each of us...a society whose goal is to uplift all its members, particularly those who've been most exploited, shuttered, and excluded.

The horrific death of George Floyd at the hands of Officer Chauvin and the Minneapolis Police Department is an affront to LINC's mission, ideals and values. His murder serves as an ever present reminder of the systemic racism embedded in policing throughout America, an institution which has failed to live up to its basic sworn oath to "protect and serve." It is time for a change.

It is time for our national community, all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, and sexual orientations, to stand in solidarity with our black and brown neighbors and end the horrific over-policing, brutality, and tyranny thrust upon them in the name of "law and order". On Long Island, LINC, a predominantly white, affluent community organization, hears the decades-long call from our black and brown brothers and sisters and will no longer remain silent.

It is time to put our words, actions, and bodies on the line to eradicate institutional racism in all of its forms. From segregated housing and education to the criminalization of public health issues, structural racism has rendered breathless the descendants of those who built this country from their lowly position as chattel. Our black and brown brothers and sisters have been gasping for the simple opportunities promised to all at the conception of our nation - Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness - the core tenets of self-determination. It is time for a change.

LINC will redouble its commitment and efforts to bring about structural change within the Long Island community. In the immortal words of the famed civil-rights leader, Ella Baker, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes."

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