April 20, 2021

Dear Community,

Our hearts – and the hearts of all of us who are part of the network of 200+ YWCAs nationwide – are filled with compassion for the family and loved ones of George Floyd.

The criminal conviction of Derek Chauvin for the 2020 killing of Mr. Floyd is an overdue indication that the police brutality and violence that plagues our nation will no longer stand, and that the blatant disregard of Black lives and people of color will no longer be tolerated. In too many communities across the country, the trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve is often frayed, very often completely broken. We cannot heal unless we are willing to grapple with this reality and other painful truths.

Our work – whether one-to-one with our program participants, in offices and classrooms throughout the region, or on a public platform – is about building a new reality rooted in genuine equity. The urgency of this work requires us to work harder, expand our approach, and collaborate more effectively with all who share our commitment.

That commitment – to promoting, peace, justice, freedom and dignity for ALL - is not new and will not waiver; it has been our reason for being for more than 160 years because it is rooted in this undeniable truth – human decency requires our success.

We hope you’ll join us and learn more at www.ywcasew.org

Onward in solidarity,

[Signature]

Ginny Finn, President & CEO