



June 2, 2020

A JOINT STATEMENT FROM MEMBERS OF THE WORCESTER TOGETHER COALITION

Together we rise, together we stand, and together we change. On behalf of the Worcester Together Coalition, comprising more than 100 individuals and organizations formed in response to the COVID-19 crisis, we rise and we stand in condemnation of the brutal acts perpetrated by Minneapolis police officers in the murder of George Floyd. We stand in the name of countless Black lives lost at the hands of police and civil vigilantes and in the name of all Communities of Color that have and continue to experience institutional inequity and brutality. We seek to create and make change to shift the oppressive imbalances in our country in the name of all Communities of Color that have experienced profound loss including for George Floyd, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Alton Sterling, Sandra Bland, Botham Jean, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and for whom their families and communities have endured deep pain, anger, frustration, and fear because of systemic racism and inequity.

Silence is not an option. Action is paramount. Worcester Together has demonstrated our ability to act and respond in crisis through COVID-19. Today, we speak aloud in disgust and with deep sorrow for our community and our country, and to leverage our collective and unified power to act and make change. The devastating racial disparities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic are intrinsically related to our nation's history of white supremacy and structural racism. It is a legacy that we must reject and dismantle. As we seek to address the COVID-19 crisis and to build a fair and just "new normal" we commit ourselves to these principles in all that we do, both individually and collectively:

1. We will acknowledge the reality of white supremacy in our history and its insidious presence in our institutions, public school system, police department, community based organizations, and ways of doing business and will facilitate courageous conversations and frank discussion of the issues at hand as a community. We will recognize our inadvertent complicity in the perpetuation of this injustice.
2. We will approach every initiative, policy or program that we undertake as an opportunity to dismantle racism. We will do this explicitly and embrace accountability for our results.
3. We will consistently and promptly identify, name, question, and actively resist and denounce policies in our criminal justice, law enforcement, education and health institutions that injure people of color and deprive them of the opportunity to participate fully in the life of our community.
4. We will center, elevate and defer to voices of People of Color and support the economic advancement of Communities of Color by using our collective purchasing power to support locally owned Black, Latino, and immigrant businesses.

We are fallible humans acting in the name humanity and cannot do this work alone. Please join us as we work together to create equity, shape and change our community and our country's course.

The Worcester Together Coalition as signed by:

Action! by Design	MassHIRE, Worcester and Southbridge Career Centers
Alex M. Mooradian, Esq.	Mayor Joseph M. Petty
Ascentria Care Alliance	Mission E4
Billy Fitzpatrick, College of the Holy Cross, 2020	Open Sky Community Services
Blackstone River Valley National Heritage	Organization for Nonprofit Excellence (ONE Worcester)
Corridor Boys & Girls Club of Worcester	Pernet Family Health Service
Central Mass Housing Alliance	Project New Hope Inc.
CENTRO	Quinsigamond Community College
Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester	Regional Environmental Council of Central MA
Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc.	Senator Ed Markey
Coghlin Network Services, Inc.	Senator Harriette L. Chandler
Congressman Jim McGovern	Seven Hills Foundation & Affiliates
Department of Children and Families, Worcester East	Southeast Asian Coalition
Department of Youth Service, Central Region	Straight Ahead Ministries
Dress for Success Worcester	The Clemente Course in the Humanities, Worcester
Ed Augustus, City Manager, Worcester	The Guild of St. Agnes
Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center	The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the
Edward Street Child Services	Performing Arts
Emma Davison, College of the Holy Cross, 2021	together for Kids Coalition
Face Mask Working Group - Mutual Aid	UMass Memorial Health Care
Worcester Friendly House	United Way of Central Massachusetts
Gina Plata-Nino, Esq.	Worcester Chamber Music Society/Neighborhood Strings
Greater Worcester Community Foundation	Worcester Community Action Council
Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater	Worcester Cultural Coalition
Worcester HOPE Coalition	Worcester Education Collaborative
Jeremiah's Inn	Worcester Family Partnership
Joe Ertle, College of the Holy Cross	Worcester Housing Authority
Kimberly Salmon, Worcester Resident	Worcester Interfaith
Latino Education Institute	Worcester Public Schools
Legendary Legacies Inc	Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
Living In Freedom Together-LIFT	Worcester State University
Love Your Labels	Worcester Telegram and Gazette
Main South Community Development	YMCA OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
Corporation Mark Richman, Professor, WPI	YWCA Central Massachusetts