



Arlington Partnership For Affordable Housing

April 21, 2021

Statement from Susan Ingraham Bell, APAH Board Chair, and Nina Janopaul, APAH President and CEO:

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Like so many others in our organization, community and nation, we have followed the trial of Derek Chauvin and waited to see if this officer would be held accountable for the murder of George Floyd. Even with Chauvin's conviction on all charges, it is clear that accountability is not justice. Punishment cannot change that George Floyd's life was taken. Conviction of one police officer does not remedy the lack of accountability extended for the lives of thousands of other lives, many Black and Brown lives, lost at the hands of police officers. Still, it is our hope that this outcome provides some comfort to all of those who knew and loved George Floyd and that it is one of so many more steps that we all collectively need to take to move the needle on racial justice and racial equity.

Today, like yesterday, our focused, intentional efforts are required to continue the work of dismantling systemic racism in our country and communities, not just in policing and criminal justice, but in the areas where APAH's work is focused: housing and community development, service delivery and advocacy.

We are privileged to work with a staff and board who have made it a priority over the past year to take time to improve our awareness and understanding of racial bias and the systems that embed racism into our daily lives and work. They are personally and professionally committed to incorporating a racial equity lens into all that we do. We look forward to sharing more about our efforts in the months to come.

For today, we stand in solidarity with our Black and Brown neighbors and commit to continue to take action, inspired by the bravery of Darnella Frazier, the teenager who bravely did not stop filming when she saw Derek Chauvin kneeling on George Floyd's neck. Black Lives Matter.

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