



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Family Services



Elana Belon-Butler
Director

The Prince George's County Commission for Fathers, Men and Boys Statement in Response to the Senseless Deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others.

The Prince George's County Commission for Fathers, Men and Boys deeply grieves with and sends our deepest condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Brianna Taylor, the latest victims of police brutality, social injustice and racial violence against African Americans and other people of color.

While the scene of George Floyd's arrest and tragic death captured on video was both shocking and detestable to see, sadly, for African Americans, it was not surprising. Rather, it served as the latest of countless, agonizing examples and reminders of decades of racial discrimination, suffering, brutality, indignity and violence inflicted upon African Americans and other people of color, at the hands of those sworn to protect and serve all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color, gender or national origin.

While faith and prayers of peace guide us in the present, the mission statement and core values of the Commission for Fathers, Men and Boys, serve as a roadmap that we will use to move forward in the wake of this latest tragedy. We recommit our firm stance against every form of hatred and violence perpetrated by anyone against people of color, both domestically and abroad. Now more than ever, we are emboldened to fight for equality and justice for all, while setting an example of humanity, caring, respect and civility for future generations.

As a part of our call to action, the Commission for Fathers, Men and Boys will partner with our fellow citizens, leaders, and organizations from all sectors of our community. This includes business, healthcare, education, law, government, faith-based, service, professional and fraternal organizations. We will then leverage available resources, talents, wisdom, and knowledge to create programs and initiatives that strengthen the foundation of fathers, men, and boys in Prince George's County. The pillars of these programs are rooted in: Education, Economic Empowerment, Criminal Justice, Health and Wellness, and Community Engagement.

We strongly support the determined protestors who give a voice to the unspeakable pain we all feel and urge that those courageous activists be allowed to exercise their constitutional rights to peacefully protest without fear of retribution. Conversely, we do not support those who have chosen to direct their efforts and actions in the form of destruction, violence, and chaos.

To begin to make real changes in our community, everyone must register and VOTE in this year's local, state and national elections. The Commission for Fathers, Men and Boys stands ready to work for and with those who yearn for justice and equality, and seek to be a part of the change many of us have long dreamed of, desired, prayed and hoped for as a people and as a nation.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Commission on the 5th Day of June 2020,

Dr. Joseph E. Jones, Sr.
Commission Chair

Commission Members

Commissioner Chike Aguh

Commissioner James Alsobrooks

Commissioner James Ballentine

Commissioner Arthur Cutler

Commissioner Bruce Edwards (Treasurer)

Commissioner County Councilman Mel Franklin (At-Large)

Commissioner Allan Herring

Commissioner Robert Johnson (Vice Chair)

Commissioner Chris Kelly (Historian)

Commissioner Anthony McAllister

Commissioner David Owens

Commissioner Michael Williams (Secretary)