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A Message from the President

(June 16, 2020)

Dealing with the coronavirus pandemic is one thing, however with the recent civil-unrest now taking place across the country regarding the death of George Floyd and others preceding him and since, at the hands of a police officer, we are more aware than ever that we are living in a racial pandemic, as well.

We believe that all lives matter, but in this case specifically, that black lives matter. I say this due to the number of deaths of African Americans by the hands of those who were hired to protect and serve.

The Tampa Housing Authority stands in solidarity with those supporting the movement against the needless violence and oppression that our communities of color have consistently faced. We have been and will continue to be a part of change that begins with treating all people, always with dignity and respect.

Today, we lend our voice to advocate on this issue of racism, about which we cannot be silent. In the interest of unity, calm and peace during these turbulent times, we want you to know that we stand with you knowing that this event may have caused many of you to feel disengaged, afraid, angry, and hurt. As we grapple with the devastating impact of racism and hatred in our society, it is easy to misinterpret the feelings of others or not acknowledge their feelings at all. Please know that we understand and feel your pain and encourage you all to do the right thing. Reacting by destroying or defamation is never the right thing!

The Tampa Housing Authority is not in support of violence as a reaction, but the non-violence social activism that MLK fought for.

Racism is not just a black people problem, it is everyone's problem because it erodes the beautiful tapestry called society, of which we all are a part.

The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people...Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely,

Jerome D. Ryans
President/CEO

“Cultivating Affordable Housing while Empowering People and Communities”

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