



For Immediate Release

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Contacts:

Liz Ortega-Toro, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Alameda Labor Council, 510-564-6074

Josh Anijar, Executive Director, Contra Costa Central Labor Council: 602-770-9307

Rudy Gonzalez, Executive Director, San Francisco Labor Council: 415-794-0377

Julie Lind Rupp, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, San Mateo Central Labor Council: 650-333-4110

On the Killing of George Floyd; A Call for Justice

Statement of Bay Area Labor Councils

The strength of the labor movement is rooted in our unwavering commitment to dignity, respect and justice. We are saddened and angered by the recent murder of George Floyd. Unfortunately, we are not surprised. For too long, the plague of systemic racism has ravaged our communities and left despair, poverty and distrust in its wake. Black men and women have a right to live and Black families deserve to raise their children in a society that does not commodify their race and force them to confront their oppressors alone.

This fight is our fight. The Brown letter carrier worries not only about Trump's threats to privatize the US Postal Service, but also worries for their own safety on their route. The Black nurse who worries that their job will be slashed at a community health clinic must also worry about their son facing police brutality on the walk home.

Our movement has a rich tradition of standing in solidarity with movements demanding civil rights. It is painfully clear that these struggles are not over. We will help the unheard gain a voice and we will organize power among working-class people to make the changes our communities demand.

Now, more than ever, we must analyze the type of society we want for our children and grandchildren. Do we want more schoolhouses or more jails? More teachers or more police? Those questions will be posed in city halls and legislatures across the country as governments face budget shortfalls. We will be there to weigh-in. We call upon elected officials to fund the services that support our community health, education and infrastructure. Defunding oppressive institutions and forcing billionaires to pay their fair share is part of our solution to build the society we deserve. We must address economic inequality in order to have a free society.

The struggles for economic equality and racial equity are intertwined, and so too is our collective fate. We say the names of those recently murdered due to the systemic racism in our Country: George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Sean Reed. Tony McDade.

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The Central Labor Councils of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo and San Francisco Counties represent over half a million working families in the fight for economic, social and racial justice