A Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

This moment is calling for us to rise up. All communities are being called to unite to dismantle systemic racism. To remain indifferent is no longer an option. We honor the memory of those that died at the hands and knees of injustice and stand in support and solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. For far too long, systems have limited our power to confront those who comfortably sit with their privilege, while the dehumanization of communities persisted. The murder of George Floyd and countless others, along with other acts of overt racism, represents a threat to all of us.

Our vision to unite and advocate for equity, access, and justice is recharged. Over ten years ago MECCA, the Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies, was formed as a non-partisan, non-profit organization to be a collective voice for ethnic communities working with the Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Farsi, Chinese and Khmer ethnolinguistic communities among others to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities. Now more than ever we are called on to support the most vulnerable, isolated, underserved communities that face social, cultural, and linguistic barriers. We see the effects of historical inequities in how COVID-19 has disproportionately affected ethnic communities through higher infection and death rates. This is compounded by the economic devastation our most vulnerable are experiencing. We have all reached our limit.

We need reform. We need to reconstruct our paradigm. We must drown out the voices of hatred and uplift the voices of justice. We need to speak up in places we have not been before to share our truth. Ethnic communities make up the majority of the population in Orange County, the state and soon the nation. It is our responsibility to create a new narrative for our communities and we must involve, uplift and affirm the voices who have been most impacted.

We have to call out racism when we see it. To achieve this, we must be willing to have honest and courageous conversations about the systemic, structural and oppressive design of our economic, education, health and other institutional systems. We need to confront implicit bias, racial microaggressions and the deadly violence against the Black community and other people of color. We must discuss and share our immigrant stories and the history of oppression and injustice. Our children must learn to see anti-racism as a value we all stand up for.

We have not done enough. It’s imperative that we work together to support the voices of our Black community and continue the momentum. There must be investment in black communities to offset generations of disenfranchisement and educational neglect. We call on our leaders, decision makers, policy makers, and police chiefs to become allies and examine policies and practices to address the injustice, disparities and inequalities that exist in our institutions, organizations and communities including shifting resources to support this social change.

We need to define this moment for ourselves. We cannot turn back. The end of police brutality and an imbalance of power must be left behind. Only through this commitment to change and to each other can we heal our communities. As Dr. King stated, “Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The urge for freedom will eventually come.”

On behalf of MECCA,

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