



Urban League
of West Michigan

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

For most of the past year, our community, our nation and indeed our world has been transfixed by the dual tragedies of a global pandemic and the senseless killings of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement. The latter came to be embodied in the horrifying 10 minute recording of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a veteran police officer, Derek Chauvin. The guilty verdict clearly transcends a single case, a single victim, a single cop and a single conviction.

To the Urban League of West Michigan, the George Floyd tragedy refocused our collective national attention on the historic racial inequities and injustices that have long permeated every seam and stitch of the American social, economic and cultural fabric. This milestone is certain to become one of the most pivotal and precedent setting criminal cases in American jurisprudence. It put a spotlight squarely on the government's near unfettered monopoly in the use of excessive force against its citizens and on the disparate pattern of such arbitrary and lethal use against African Americans and other communities-of-color.

The Urban League of West Michigan stands in solidarity with the Floyd family, the families of victims of police brutality in marginalized communities, the Greater Grand Rapids community, the NAACP and the National Urban League in promoting and facilitating reforms at the grass roots level in our systems of juvenile and criminal justice, economic opportunity and development, education, housing and health. We are especially committed to working with all of our corporate and community partners to strengthen police and community relations in ways that respect human rights, human dignity, human diversity and human development.

Our overriding goal is to make West Michigan a place where everyone regardless of their race feels safe, valued, welcomed and included and able to live out their lives with the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law.

Brenda Moore, Interim President/Chief Executive Officer



EMPOWERED

I AM THE URBAN LEAGUE OF WEST MICHIGAN

Empowerment Starts Here: Employment • Housing • Education • Health • Racial Equity