PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2021

2nd Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Calls US Senate to Action

The 2nd Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church joins in lament with the Floyd family. We are united in the continued expressions of profound grief and sympathy on the tragic loss and senseless murder of Mr. George Perry Floyd, Jr.

On May 25, 2020, then Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin was captured on video pinning Mr. Floyd to the ground for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, which ultimately led to his untimely death. Today, we celebrate, with many around the nation, the guilty verdicts handed down through the Hennepin County court. Though only one case, today's verdict signifies that our justice system has the potential to render justice for people of color. We are still left to wrestle with video images of former Officer Kim Potter, who shot and killed 20-year-old, Daunte Wright just 10 miles from where Mr. Floyd was killed. For a $20 bill and an air freshener 2 fathers, 2 sons, 2 brothers, 2 humans have lost their lives. Death is the unfortunate circumstance of too many Black women, men, and children, who become victims of police brutality and excessive force when encountering law enforcement. Too often these deadly outcomes are without just recourse. Each case continues to unveil the racial bias that occurs in policing practices across the nation.

We are committed to ensuring that justice is administered to all who are adversely impacted by current policing practices that have wrought harm to our communities. It is our intent to continue to organize, mobilize, and equip our congregations and communities to advance the much-needed change.

We call on the United States Senate to begin addressing this issue of injustice, that has proven to be deadly to the Black community at disproportionate rates, by passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280).

- This bill increases police accountability concerning police conduct.
- It limits qualified immunity as a defense, limits the unnecessary use of force and restricts the use of no-knock warrants, chokeholds, and carotid holds that have contributed to immeasurable loss of life.
- The passage of this bill would also create the National Police Misconduct Registry that would keep record of complaints and officer misconduct.

Micah 6:8 asks the question, what has The Lord required of us, but that we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. To "walk humbly" with God means to "walk where God walks." Scripture is very clear that God walks alongside the oppressed. Therefore, we must walk where God's footprints lead us in the fight for justice and equality.

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