



Institute News!

Dear Institute friend,

As the recent heartbreaking events have made clear, it is an especially difficult time to be Black in America.

The coronavirus has exposed cracks in our foundation that are causing earthquakes in Black and other communities of color.

In the throes of this pandemic, in May alone, our collective hearts broke as video emerged of Ahmaud Arbery's murder by white men as he was out for a run.

We learned of the recent killing of EMT worker Breonna Taylor in her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment when police executed a warrant on the wrong home. Taylor wanted to be a nurse and had been providing essential healthcare during the pandemic.

George Floyd, pleading "I Can't Breathe," was executed in Minneapolis when a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck; he was rendered unconscious and eventually died.

We then saw Amy Cooper invoke the historical, hysterical fear of "dangerous" Black men harming white women to urge the New York Police Department to arrest Christian Cooper, a birdwatcher who had merely asked her to leash her dog.

'I can't breathe': Man dies after pleading with officer attempting to detain him in Minneapolis

"What we saw was horrible, completely and utterly messed up," Mayor Jacob Frey said of video of the incident. "I believe what I saw, and what I saw was wrong at every level."



From: NBC News

This morning, the President of the United States threatened to shoot people protesting the killing of Mr. Floyd in Minneapolis, after we woke up to news that a Black reporter covering the protest was arrested on live TV.

And here in New Jersey, Black and other people of color are rallying against these systems of oppression in the midst of a pandemic.

Yesterday, we stood with some of those families who have lost loved ones to the coronavirus in New Jersey's prisons. One woman who spoke lost her brother who was scheduled to be released in two weeks. More people have died from the coronavirus in New Jersey's prisons than anywhere else in America.



Each of these events occurred against the backdrop of Black communities getting sick and dying from coronavirus at alarmingly higher rates than white people.

Black people are at higher risk because they have higher rates of the pre-existing conditions on which the coronavirus preys, have less access to adequate healthcare, face discrimination within the healthcare system, and are less likely to have jobs that allow for social distancing.

As the pandemic has made clear, structural racism is the real pre-existing condition.

All of this speaks to the critical nature of our work in building systems to rebuild our foundation to repair the cracks of structural racism.

This includes our work on a Monitoring Team overseeing policing reforms required by a 2016 Consent Decree between the City of Newark and the U.S. Department of Justice to implement new policies to help build a new relationship between law enforcement and the community it serves – as well as our work to expand access to democracy, economic justice and youth justice.

As difficult as this moment is, it is also true that the most powerful social movements and fights for freedom and liberation have been birthed in difficult moments like this one.

We stand with you in solidarity and compassion. And we promise to never give up the fight.

We welcome you to [take action](#) on our website, and thank you for supporting our advocacy [here](#).

Onward!

A handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is stylized, starting with a large 'R' and 'H' that are connected, followed by 'aygood'. The 'ay' is written in a cursive style, and 'good' is also cursive. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Ryan P. Haygood, Esq.
President & CEO