



UAW 2865

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In the wake of the latest police killing of George Floyd, an African American man in Minneapolis, UAW 2865 and 5810 re-double our call for systemic reform on the use of deadly force by law enforcement agencies, and demand an increased review of the discriminatory practices that resulted in injuries and deaths to communities of color in Minneapolis this past week.

Millions have seen clear video evidence of a police officer kneeling on George Floyd's neck for at least seven minutes despite protests from observers that his life was in jeopardy and Floyd warning "I can't breathe." When peaceful protestors took to the streets, state actions escalated the situation by responding with violence: assaulting, gassing and arresting protestors.

As researchers and educators, we are invested in a society where everyone learns the value of each and every human life: that black lives matter. We see in systems of higher education every day the impacts of racism and police violence: a university that is far less black and brown than it should be; a University that punishes, polices and arrests students and workers of color on a daily basis; a University that [surveils and polices students and workers of color](#) when they take labor action.

As unionists we also know that injustice does not end overnight. It takes all of us coming together and demanding an end to the unspeakable harms and violence that have injured families and communities of color for generations. If an injury to one is indeed an injury to all, we must fight back. We demand justice for George Floyd and an end to the unnecessary death of black men at the hands of those who should protect us all.

This latest bout of police violence comes amidst a public health crisis and pandemic that lays bare and exacerbates racialized inequality in our society. People of color are facing the most economic precarity, are on the front lines of essential services, and are being scapegoated and villainized by those with power every single day. We see this in harassment and threats toward Asian-Americans and Chinese people targeted by those blaming them for the virus, racist signs carried by some of those protesting sheltering policies, immigration policies that blame immigrants for the unemployment faced by 30% of workers in the US, as well as disproportionate COVID-19 deaths of African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans.

In the face of the latest bout of police repression of black communities, we renew our belief that the death of black men and women at the hands of police is one of the most important issues of racial justice in our times, and that it must be addressed with comprehensive reforms that recognize the calamitous effects of police violence on the health, safety, and security of black communities across the U.S. Such comprehensive reforms require the provision of public goods like healthcare, education, jobs, and housing to everyone equally, because black and brown people are hurt the most by each and every systemic failure of our society.

Unions like ours play a critical role in condemning racism and taking action to end it. As workers, we can hold powers far bigger than any one of us accountable to our demands: to a society that is truly equitable and just, where no black person is murdered at the hands of the police. We look forward to an open discussion about the police presence on our campuses and [follow the lead of the University of Minnesota](#) to rescale the University's partnership with the local police, to take the steps required to bring an end to weeks like these. We encourage our members to get involved (see below for suggestions) and to [sign this petition](#).

JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD - actions you can take, wherever you are:

Everywhere: Donate to Reclaim the Block, a Minneapolis-based group organizing for their city council to move funding from away from police to community health and safety programs: <https://www.reclaimtheblock.org>

Sacramento: Donate to NorCal Resist's Activist Bail and ICE Bond fund: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/ncrbailfund>

Bay Area: Show up to the Solidarity march, June 1st, 4pm - Oakland Tech High School, 4351 Broadway, Oakland

Los Angeles: Show up to the Westwood Against Police Brutality rally, June 1st, 4pm - Wilshire Fed Building, 11000 Wilshire *and* call your councilmember for a budget that funds services before police - <https://peoplesbudgetla.com/>

Riverside: Show up to the rally downtown , June 1st, 4pm - Riverside Library, 3581 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside

Irvine: Donate to the OC Bail Fund: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/orange-county-bail-fund>

San Diego: Donate to the DeDe McClure Community Bail Fund: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-raise-funds-to-support-our-community>