

Community Leaders Committed To Creating Place Equity

We are living in troubling times and once again we are faced with the uncomfortable reality that change is difficult to achieve. Another African American male has lost his life. While this event did not happen in our community, we are not immune from its implications.

We are compelled to ask many questions. How did this happen? Could it have been prevented? What should we do now? What can we do now? These are questions that arise naturally in tragedy, and in the absence of a plan, they speak to a greater question... Why?

Many of us are in pain, many of us are conflicted, many of us are angry, many of us are tired. But together we remain committed to securing a deeper understanding of the problem and creating solutions that lift us all. Our call to action is to ask the right questions, find the right answers, and change despite the discomfort it might cause. We have done much, but we know it is not enough.

What will we do?

Action Step 1 - Create a Safe Space for Brave Conversations

- Create a space (virtual or in-person) where youth, friends, family, or neighbors can share what they are feeling and support one another.

Action Step 2 - Place Based Equity/Anti-racist Interventions

- In 10 days, we are going to assemble and communicate a comprehensive list of equity/anti-racist programs and events that are currently happening and/or planned in the near future in Central Minnesota to show that sustained work of meaningful change is occurring right now in our area.
- We will convene again to find the gaps in the current and/or planned offerings and strategize solutions to fill those gaps. We will welcome feedback.

This is our community! We have all the talent and expertise needed to bring about and maintain substantive change for our children and families. We sign this letter to indicate that we are dedicated to the success of all in OUR COMMUNITY and we commit to the work of making it happen.

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