



*EcoWorks Justice League, 6/5/20*

We stand in solidarity with protestors across Detroit, the United States, and the world. We stand behind our staff and the community we serve in affirming that **Black Lives Matter.**

People of color deserve to feel safe in their communities. They should not have to fear that the police who have sworn to protect them will instead kill them without cause or attack them for exercising their civil rights. After 400 years of institutional racism and systemic violence, enough is enough.

**GEORGE FLOYD      BREONNA TAYLOR      SEAN REED      AHMAUD ARBERY**

They are four of more than 400 people who have been killed by police in 2020 alone. We do not want millions of children to be traumatized from watching a stream of murders committed by police. We are appalled that a Black mother's greatest fear is that her son will be brutally killed by police. We are enraged that those who call for an end to violence have been attacked by police with tear gas and rubber bullets. Enough is enough. Police violence, like environmental justice, is a matter of public health.

As an organization dedicated to Environmental Justice, we know that dismantling white supremacy is necessary to foster healthy communities and a healthy planet. This moment drives us to work in solidarity to undo a sweeping set of racist policies inflicted on Detroiters for decades. Our actions will speak louder than our words. Being anti-racist is about showing up to take down the racist and oppressive structures, systems, policies and financing that enable violence against Black and Brown communities.

Racism is the reason water remains shut off in thousands of Detroit households during a pandemic. Racism is why Black and Brown Detroiters suffer disproportionate harm from air pollution that repeatedly violates federal standards. Racism has exposed the Black community to particularly high disease and death rates from Covid-19. We have seen a contrast between how quickly elected leaders and government officials have quelled protests for Black lives and how slowly they responded to a pandemic that disproportionately threatens Black lives. This is unquestionably racist.

Policing as we know it has to end. Militarized policing inevitably perpetuates institutional racism and white supremacy and will continue to disproportionately target and kill Black, Brown, and Native people. Dismantling violent police departments is necessary to dismantle racism. Dismantling racism is necessary to stop climate change and build resilience in our communities. We demand more holistic, democratic reflections of community power that ensure Black Lives are safe.

**GEORGE FLOYD      BREONNA TAYLOR      SEAN REED      AHMAUD ARBERY**

and thousands more un-named: Rest in Power.