



June 10, 2020

On May 25th we watched in horror the video of George Floyd as he was killed by police during an arrest in Minneapolis.

We then watched numerous protests in DC and surrounding areas that brought this closer to home.

Then on June 5th it happened in our own backyard as a Black man in our community needed help and instead was subjected to unnecessary, excessive force and violence by a member of the Fairfax County Police Department.

We know that this is not new -- there have been systems and policies in place for decades that disadvantage residents of color and low-income people. **What is new is a sense of urgency of the now.**

The events of these past weeks have been infuriating, heartbreaking, frustrating and exhausting, but they have left us ready to take on the fight for basic human rights, justice and equity.

As the lead social services agency in Alexandria-Fairfax, United Community knows that now is the time to address these inequities with smarter, more engaged, and community-wide approaches that place listening to residents and valuing their voices and insights at the center of problem-solving, opportunity generation and resource building.

United Community will bring forth the voices of our community as a member of Chairman Jeff McKay's newly created Task Force on Equity and Opportunity (see link below).

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/board-issues-joint-statement-announces-task-force-on-equity-and-opportunity/>

Our next steps in the near future will be to host community listening sessions utilizing various formats (e.g. in-person/socially distanced; digital meeting) to hear the voices of all in our community. We look forward to hearing yours.

Alison DeCoursey
Executive Director

Ken Disselkoen
Chairman of the Board of Directors

United Community Board of Directors

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