



It is hard to watch what is happening in our city and around the country and stand by silently as we try to find the right words to say in response to what we are witnessing. Moreover, we cannot stand aside and say nothing hoping someone else will say it better. Racism is present in our society and more closely in our community. Racism cannot be ignored and “hope” the unrest blows-over and we get back to “normal”. As the old “normal” is NOT GOOD ENOUGH. Although we have done much within our mission to impact these outcomes, we can and MUST do more. We, as a society, and we, as a community, MUST do better for everyone and help those who need us. We are all ONE in our humanity and MUST do better today for a better tomorrow.

BOMA Rochester has always prided itself on being an open, welcoming and supportive organization, here to help promote the general well-being of our members, the community, our commercial real estate owners and all their occupants, irrespective of the color of their skin or political persuasion. We grieve for the family of George Floyd. We grieve for all the families whom have lost loved ones under similar circumstances. However, our grief must turn to action and those actions must work to resolve the issues that allow these injustices to occur. We must work to offer solutions to these problems and not just rhetoric to fuel the flames of frustration.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends"

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us strive in an even greater measure to honor and respect individual differences whether color, race, religion, political viewpoints, socioeconomic status, physical abilities, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual preference. We must be a society of decency and laws that are equitable to everyone. As such, it is our desire that everyone who enters our buildings, attends our events and gatherings, and/or chooses to live, work or play in one of our facilities, feels safe and accepted. Free speech is not a right to impose your will over someone else and violence has never worked to bring lasting change.

Although COVID-19 has forced many of us to change our business operations, we still have the capacity to care for and support everyone in our communities. Be an agent of change and support the rights of everyone during this time of crisis and we will come out of this a better society and a better community. Be safe and be well.