



PULSE NATIONAL STATEMENT ON DEATH OF

May 30, 2020

GEORGE FLOYD

National Advisory Panel:

Dr. Arun Gandhi

Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. Bernard Lafayette

National Coordinator,

*MLK's 1968 Poor People's
Campaign*

Sister Simone Campbell

Executive Director,

NETWORK Lobby

Janis F. Kearney

Former Presidential Diarist

Robert S. Weiner

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Spokesman

Luba Lukova

International Visual Artist

Herb Boyd

Historian and Journalist

Rev. Lawrence T. Foster

Liberation Theologian

At The PuLSE Institute, we are outraged by the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police. As an independent anti-poverty think tank, we regularly advocate for policies that will improve the quality of lives of citizens in our community and the world alike. This necessarily includes an unwavering, basic respect for humanity and the freedom and dignity to live and breathe without a constant fear of slaughter by police.

Police brutality and the unlawful killings of black men, women, and children are pains the black community has never been able to heal from due to a consistent pattern of violence against black people this country has never refrained from committing. We have lived with such gross injustices from the ugly days of the Antebellum era of our history, yet have continually failed to properly or consistently institute preventative measures or punitive actions to guarantee the safety and right to life for black people in this country.

Headquartered in the nation's largest black city, Detroit, we understand and empathize with the pain and outrage demonstrated by the protests occurring across the country. We are well aware that 80% of our population are targets for this intolerable inhumanity simply for our existence as black people.

George Floyd was a black man who mattered, and in order to ensure his violent and unnecessary death is not repeated, elected officials and police departments in Minneapolis, Detroit, and across the nation must not simply offer their sympathies and selective support for responsible activism and peaceful protest, but use their inherent authority to eliminate detrimental police tactics and ensure accountability for police misconduct.

Here in Detroit, that begins with ending the use of facial recognition technology in the Detroit Police Department, a far-reaching surveillance measure that disproportionately targets black people.



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The Detroit Police Department also has yet to fully address a 2019 revelation that 54 officers on the force have a history of not telling the truth, an admission readily offered by Police Chief James Craig, resulting in their testimonies being inadmissible in court. Public confidence in law enforcement is significantly eroded when police officers fail the truth test in any court of competent jurisdiction. A recent audit of a racist culture in the Detroit Police Department's 6th Precinct further undermines public trust in this Detroit institution, which has a sordid history of its own. Along with police brutality, these unacceptable behaviors destroy public trust as reflected in the current nationwide protests.

The PuLSE Institute will closely follow the outcome of this latest injustice against George Floyd and continue to advocate for policies that will uplift and uphold the basic human dignities of black humanity.

Sincerely,

Tina M. Patterson
President and Director of Research

Bankole Thompson
Editor-in-Chief and Chair, Academy of Fellows