

chicago foundation for women

Letter from CFW President & CEO

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June 1, 2020



The tragic events of this week, have had a profound, personal effect on me. I hurt, not only for my own Black sons, I hurt for all the Black youth and their families, who are left wondering how to move forward; how to address the history and lasting legacy of persistent and evolving pain and trauma. This week, at my best, I have been angry. My worst – numbed by pain and paralyzed by fear.

In the last 24 hours, thousands of people took the streets not to engage in lawlessness, but to peacefully make their own voices and supplications heard and offer another pained plea to the world – asking for the end of hatred and the true fulfillment of the dreams of dignity, justice, and equity for all.

While I do not support the actions of the few, who turned righteous demonstrations into an opportunity for looting and anarchy, I DO support all of those risking their own comfort to peacefully protest and scream out NO MORE. I will continue to work tirelessly to dismantle the racist, unjust structures and systems that continue to allow the lives of Black sons, like my own, to have no value.

I pray for an end to the type of pain and grief gripping our city, our nation, this week. In the words of Dr. King: “The ultimate measure of a woman is not where she stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where she stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

At this moment, I am called - WE are called to speak out, seek understanding, and pursue mercy and justice. I ask that you join me and Chicago Foundation for Women by actively speaking out against racism and injustice. We ask for your solidarity in, not just, fighting systems of gender inequity, but also in explicitly calling for an end to the intersectional, destructive, and divisive systems of racism and oppression. There will be no gender equity without racial equity.

Lastly, in the words of Margaret Mead “Never Doubt That a Small Group of Thoughtful, Committed Citizens Can Change the World; Indeed, It’s the Only Thing That Ever Has.”

Let’s get to work,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Felicia Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Felicia Davis
President and CEO
Chicago Foundation for Women