



## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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### **STAND UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!**

History will mark 2020 as a year of clarity – one where the United States of America, great in so many ways, is face to face with the systemic discrimination, prejudice, and racism so entrenched within the country's fabric.

The past four months has shown the ugly head of racism through the targeting of Asian-Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 also fully revealed the health disparities in this country, and the increased rate of death due to COVID-19 among black and brown people. Another pandemic has been painfully brought to the forefront - the continued senseless violence against African Americans by their neighbors and by the very people that swore an oath to protect them.

This weekend as I watched the news from around our region and this nation, my heart filled with a pain caused by the déjà vu of this moment. Although these acts may not have occurred in Howard County, it remains the issue of every Howard County resident when the sacred right to live free from harassment, discrimination and death has been compromised in our country.

Now, more than ever, while living in the time of our country's worst modern health pandemic, devastating economic uncertainty, and blatant inequality, we need to come together, embrace and understand our differences. We are a community that is proud of our diverse communities and going forward we must all be dedicated to healing our neighbor's pain and addressing systemic inequalities.

Now is the time to stand up for the basic and human rights due, not only to your family, but to everyone in this country. Being complacent encourages discrimination to continue and hate to brew. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. powerfully noted that *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."*

So I ask all Howard County residents to re-commit themselves to the principles of love, justice, and non-violent protest so that we can have the courage to fight bigotry, give freedom to the oppressed, and that we can lend a hand to the disenfranchised in order for this nation to truly be great.

Enough is Enough. Take a Stand Today!

If you feel you have been discriminated against in Howard County regarding Employment, Housing, Law Enforcement, Public Accommodations and Financing, please contact the Howard County Office of Human Rights at (410) 313-6430 or [ohr@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ohr@howardcountymd.gov) to file a Complaint.

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