

Memphis Jewish Community Statement of Solidarity with African American Community

June 2, 2020

We, members of the organized Memphis Jewish community, would like to take this opportunity to express our collective grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd. We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and send our deepest condolences to his family, friends and community.

We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry. Our Jewish tradition compels us to not stand idly by and to pursue justice. Together, we stand in solidarity with our friends and partners in the African American community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

We stand with you during this difficult time and yearn for a better future.

Jewish Community Partners: Laura Linder, President & CEO; Ken Steinberg, Chair; Cindy Finestone, Chair, Memphis Jewish Federation; Anthony Morrison, Chair, Jewish Foundation of Memphis

Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation: Rabbi Joel Finkelstein; Eric Mogy, Board President; Alan Goldkin, Executive Director

Baron Hirsch Congregation: Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield; Mary Trotz, Board President; David Fleischhacker, Executive Director

Beth Sholom Synagogue: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz; Illysa Wertheimer, Board President; Geo Poor, Executive Director

Bornblum Jewish Community School: Daniel R. Weiss, Head of School; Jill Shanker, Board President

Chabad of Tennessee: Rabbi Levi Klein

Hillels of Memphis: Sophie Bloch, Director

Kollel Torah MiTzion Memphis: Rabbi Yisrael Wende; David Cooper, President

Margolin Hebrew Academy: Rabbi Benjy Owen, Dean; Aileen Cooper, Board President

Memphis BBYO: Zoe Goldberg, Director

Memphis Jewish Community Center: Larry Skolnick, President & CEO; Jenny Herman, Board Chair



Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab: Bobby Meadows, Executive Director; Joel Ashner, Director of Philanthropy & Community Engagement; Scott Notowich, President

Memphis Kollel: Rabbi Yosef Braha; Esther Katz, President

Memphis NCSY: Rabbi Donny Schwartz, Midwest Regional Director

Or Chadash Conservative Congregation: Rabbi David Julian

Plough Towers: Leigh Hendry, Executive Director; Jason Salomon, President

Temple Israel: Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Sr. Rabbi; Rabbi Bess Wohlner, Associate Rabbi; Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Assistant Rabbi; Laurie Meskin, Board President; Stacy Canales, Executive Director

Young Israel of Memphis: Rabbi Akiva Males