We pledge our solidarity with Black communities in Santa Clara County and across the country experiencing pain and grief. We condemn the racialized violence against George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless other Black people at the hands of law enforcement officers. To better understand the depths of the injuries of the present, we must acknowledge the histories of systemic racial injustices and the role government institutions continue to play. As the Division of Equity and Social Justice, this is our mandate, and these issues cut across the work of all of our Offices.

Today’s voices of protest and outrage are calling us to step up, and as a government division, we must hold ourselves accountable as public servants to do more. We know that change and transformation take place by collective action, deliberate commitment, and inclusive voices, and we add ours to those already before us. We recognize this statement must be backed up with actions. This is not going to be easy to address and dismantle, and it cannot be done alone and overnight. As allies, we must support our Black communities looking for answers and demanding change.

We turn to the County of Santa Clara’s mission “to plan for the needs of a dynamic community, provide quality services, and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous community for all.” We commit to examining policies and working in the community to serve this mission in its full capacity.

In Solidarity,

The Division of Equity and Social Justice: Office of the Census, Office of Cultural Competency, Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Office of Immigrant Relations, Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, Office of LGBTQ Affairs, Office of Women’s Policy