



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ERTF STATEMENT ON EQUITY FOR ALL AS WE REBUILD

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new and unprecedented challenges to our community. Unfortunately, it has also exacerbated the injustice and inequity that already exists. On May 25th, George Floyd died unnecessarily at the hands of Minneapolis police. Across the country, people are gathering to protest his death, and the systemic inequity that allowed it to happen. Members of Mayor Ethan Berkowitz's Economic Resiliency Task Force (ERTF) have issued the following statement:

“Like many across our state and country, we find Mr. Floyd’s death unfathomable and deeply unjust. We know this is far from an isolated incident, and is demonstrative of the inequity that exists even here in Anchorage. As members of the ERTF, we are focused on emerging from the pandemic stronger together with a resilient economy and community.

As we begin to rebuild our city, we must do so in a way that makes it better than before. We cannot move forward towards an equitable city without recognizing the significant challenges facing communities of color. We must ensure our institutions are serving all of us, and keeping all of us safe from harm. To do so, we are called to unravel legacies of socioeconomic injustice that erode any attempt at building a strong foundation for our economy and community.

On Saturday, Anchorage gathered to stand up to the racial injustice we have seen demonstrated in Mr. Floyd’s death – and unnecessary violence against the black community nationally. We commend our city for protesting peacefully, safely, and in accordance with public health guidelines, and we commend Chief Doll and the Anchorage Police Department for their commitment to compassion and respect. We commend our Anchorage Assembly and Mayor Berkowitz on Tuesday’s resolution that commits to doing more. Our future as we navigate the challenges ahead of us, unprecedented or not, depends on each other- every one of us.”