

### **Message from Elie Y. Katz**

I received a call from a very close friend of mine who expressed how genuinely concerned and afraid he is to be an African American in the United States. I tried to comfort him, but I honestly have no idea what it is like to walk in his shoes.

I express my condolences to the family of George Floyd and also my support for the African-American community particularly my neighbors and friends in our beautiful Township of Teaneck.

This pandemic has taught us the value of all lives. It is impossible to wrap my head around the fact that many continue to suffer the ravages of racism and hatred. The time for talking is over. It is time for real action.

A statement is not merely enough. I stand against hate, the same way I stand against antisemitism, racism, terrorism and random acts of violence.

We have an obligation to "love your neighbor as yourself" and to treat our neighbors as you would want to be treated. Race, color and religion should never figure into the equation when we discuss fairness and equity.

We must discourage violence and looting and stand up as a nation together with the African American community and all communities to come together as one united country.

The George Floyd arrest video is outrageous and enraging. I don't think there is a decent person who can view a human killed in such a brutal way and not feel similarly enraged.

Please be good to each other. Love your neighbor. "I Can't Breathe" should never ever be equated with abuse ever again.

*Elie Y Katz*

**No Place for Bigotry and Hate  
in Teaneck**



Message from Township Manager Dean Kazinci:

There is NO PLACE FOR BIGOTRY AND HATE IN TEANECK, or anywhere else in our society. The Township remains committed to making Teaneck a safe community. Although the tragedy in Minneapolis, Minnesota occurred hundreds of miles away, the impact is felt all over the nation and world, especially in the African America community. As a previous member of the law enforcement community, I know that those in this profession, especially our brave men and women at the Teaneck Police Department, work earnestly to serve our community with fairness and sincerity. However, we cannot permit or accept those who stain the profession and promote distrust amongst our communities. This type of conduct will not be tolerated. The Township of Teaneck will continue to work with our partner stakeholders to ensure that we are policing with fairness, transparency, and dignity. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family of George Floyd and the citizens of Minnesota during this difficult time.



Message from Teaneck  
Congregation Rinat Yisrael

בְּצֵלִים אֱלֹקִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ  
"In G-d's Image did He make man"  
בראשית א:כז  
Genesis 1:27

צֶדֶק צֶדֶק, תִּרְדּוּף  
"Justice, Justice you shall pursue"  
דברים טז:כ  
Deuteronomy 16:20

Congregation Rinat Yisrael reaffirms its unambiguous condemnation of racism or hatred in any form. We express our condolences to the family of George Floyd, and express our support for the African-American community particularly those with whom we share our beautiful Township of Teaneck. Teaneck has a long history of tolerance and mutual understanding, and we are proud bearers of that legacy. Congregation Rinat Yisrael is committed to advancing that legacy going forward.  
Rabbi Yosef Adler Bina Faber, President



**From the Teaneck Jewish Center**

Statement on the Killing of George Floyd and Riots

Dear Friend,

We are experiencing deeply troubled times right now in our country. The scourge of the pandemic has now been compounded by the worst racial unrest we have seen in many years, and even decades.

While I look forward to communicating with you more broadly towards the end of the week, I want you to know that I have been in touch with **both our local police officers, who bring honor and dignity to their profession, to offer them our support, and African American faith leaders and communities, to offer them my personal and communal support.**

For now, let me simply state the following basic principles.

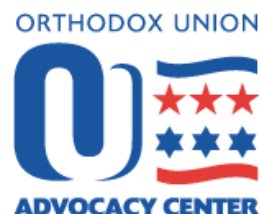
2. There are no words for the act of ruthlessness and brutality which occurred in Minneapolis other than the one with which the police officer who killed George Floyd was charged: murder. We live in a country, thankfully, of due process, and justice must be served in the proper manner. And yet, as the Minneapolis chief of police said when questioned as to why he fired the officers involved with unprecedented speed, 'we all know what we saw.' For anyone who takes the statement of our Sages "beloved is man for he has been created in the image of the Almighty", what we saw, in fact, is an affront to both man and God alike.
- 3.

This is not the first time, nor the second time, nor the third time that there has been excessive use of force resulting in the death of an African American male. One time alone is too many. **And, we have to understand that just as we experience acts of antisemitism not as isolated incidents, but ones which touch the deepest core of our being, and call to mind our historical trauma and suffering, each act of violence directed against the African American community equally touches a deep reservoir of suffering which stretches back to this country's original sin, chattel slavery of Africans brought here against their will.**

- 1.
2. The overwhelming majority of law enforcement, of every race and religion, including African Americans, bring honor and dignity to their essential public service. We need to understand that the officers involved in the killing of George Floyd, and similar events in the past, **do not represent law enforcement in any sense**. As the chief of police in Minneapolis expressed, police officers across the country are outraged when they see this disgraceful behavior, and it is unfair to assign any collective guilt. On the contrary, we need to remember "do not judge your friend until you have been in his place." How many of us can even begin to comprehend how difficult the work of law enforcement truly is, when any routine traffic stop could potentially be a life threatening encounter? Let us continue to honor and show great respect for law enforcement.
- 3.

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2. As former First Lady Michelle Obama said, **each and every one of us has a responsibility to root out racism**. This is not the work of the African American community alone, but of every decent American of good faith. Let us all strive to follow in the path of Dr. Martin Luther King, who demonstrated to the entire world that the only response to the sickness of racism was not violence and looting, however understandable the outrage may be, but in **peaceful** protest. These deplorable riots only harm the deeply just cause from which they have emerged.
- 3.

Let us pray that the Almighty will give us the strength, courage, and moral clarity to *properly* bind the deep wounds of this nation, and to do all that it is in our power to bring that great vision of Dr. King closer towards its realization, "when all of God's children" will live together in peace, harmony, and mutual respect.



**Statement by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America in the Wake of the Death of Mr. George Floyd and National Protest**

Today, in the wake of last week's death of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis and days of protests that have followed, the

leadership of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (“Orthodox Union”) issued the following statement:

We are saddened, sickened, and outraged to have seen another broadcast video of an African-American man dying at the hands of police officers.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a political issue. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As religious Jews, we believe the most important starting point for the national discourse that must take place is the recognition that all people are created in the image of G-d and that each human life is of infinite value. Indeed, the United States of America was founded upon this principle and, at its best, persistently strives to make it manifest in America’s laws and policies.

Yet, we are again witnessing that too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded, and we are not doing enough to point out that this brutal and unjust treatment is antithetical to basic American values.

People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when people are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. The right of citizens outraged by these events to engage in peaceful public protest is to be protected as a fundamental right. But that should not lead to violence and vandalism, including assaulting law enforcement officers. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States while the legal process moves forward. We also join in the demand for a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

In 2019, the American Jewish community experienced its most deadly, violent and disturbing outbreak of anti-Semitism. Thus, we are acutely sensitive to the essential imperative to foster tolerance and respect in this highly diverse society in which we live.

We call on all Americans to unite in the pursuit of justice and brotherly love and respect, regardless of race, creed or color. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst our fellow men and women – all of whom are created in the image of God. Let us work in partnership toward eradicating all forms of bigotry and racism and making the United States the “more perfect union” we all pray for it to be.

Dear God,  
Be with us  
in this moment of our turmoil.  
Protect the lovers  
and heal the haters.  
Overshadow the country  
with the spirit of Your good.  
Lead us through these waters  
for they are rough  
and we are frightened.  
Bless our precious world.  
Amen



Sign Up For "Tid-Bits"

Please feel free to forward this email. To be added to my personal email list for periodic updates, please email me at:

[Katz07666@gmail.com](mailto:Katz07666@gmail.com)

This email is not an official township email.  
This email is my personal opinion.

*Elie Y. Katz*

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Teaneck Loves Its Residents..and We Want You Safe