



June 4, 2020

As Constitutionally-Bound Organizations, the Men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the Women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., stand in solidarity with protestors, activists, policy leaders, allies, and organizations in the fight for justice.

The ideals of **CULTURE, SERVICE, HUMANITY, COMMUNITY- CONSCIOUSNESS**, and **ACTION** are deeply rooted in our founding principles and deeds. It is in this mantra that we affirm our dedication to social reform. The tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Henry Green, Tyre King, and Sandra Bland, are now added to a long list of seemingly infinite #BlackLivesMatter hashtags. These acts, along with hundreds and thousands of other acts of violence, have been perpetuated against Black people in this nation...for over 400 years.

America, suffering from the disease of racism, bears the stench of bigotry. Our City and our Nation is hemorrhaging from racial and economic inequity. Lynching by the hands of police must stop. Our actions define this important narrative we contribute to history.

As professional men and women representing over 1,000 members in Central Ohio, we hereby call for an immediate end to racial injustice, police brutality, and corporate silence.

We are done dying. Silence is compliance. We will not be still. In solidarity with local activists:

1. We are calling on representatives at the Ohio Statehouse to collaborate with Black activists and organizers to introduce a bill to limit the excessive force by the Columbus and Reynoldsburg Police Department.
2. We are calling on Mayor **Andrew Ginther** to openly advocate for the immediate release of all prisoners being held on petty thefts, no knock warrants, and misdemeanors in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that continues to impact the city.
3. We are calling on Mayor **Andrew Ginther** to openly advocate for the immediate release of those disproportionately charged on drug offenses (which are disproportionately Black).
4. We are calling on Ohio Attorney General **Dave Yost**, Governor **Mike DeWine**, and Mayor **Andrew Ginther** to demand for an external investigation on **Columbus Police Department** for their excessive use of force to deescalate crimes and their disproportionate targeting of Black people.
5. We are calling on Governor **Mike DeWine** to investigate excessive police violence and create action steps no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.
6. We are calling on Governor **Mike DeWine** to investigate the cases of excessive police violence in the cases of Tamir Rice, Henry Green, Julius Tate, Tyre King, Jaron Thomas, and many more throughout the state of **Ohio**.
7. We are calling on U.S. Representative **Joyce Beatty** to introduce a congressional bill to address excessive police violence across the nation, requesting for body cams of all officers, and creating ways to bring transparency to police operations.
8. We are calling on United States Attorney **General Barr** for an immediate investigation of excessive police violence throughout the country and seeking justice for all of the cases found at [mappingpoliceviolence.org](http://mappingpoliceviolence.org).

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