

Black Lives Matter

NORTHSIDE NEWS

Racism: A Public Health Crisis

Forward With You!

The following remarks were made by N.C. State Senator Valerie Foushee on June 6, 2020, at the Peace and Justice Plaza in Chapel Hill following a march honoring George Floyd and the countless victims of racist police violence in the U.S.

Good afternoon,

Thank you to the Chapel Hill Carrboro NAACP Youth Council and the Chapel Hill Youth Advocates for sponsoring this rally for social justice! It is so encouraging to see our youth so active and leading this effort to honor the lives lost to police violence and other overt acts of racism in our nation.

Ahmaud Arbery.

Breonna Taylor.

George Floyd.

Tony McDade.

Manuel Ellis.

"My friends, elections have consequences. I beg you to ensure your voices are heard at the one place where you must not be silent - the ballot box."
-Senator Valerie Foushee

All in 2020 and so many others before them.

I am one of the few if not the only current black Chapel Hill native elected who lived here through segregation and the move to integration. I am one who remembers Big John's, Brady's, and Leo's restaurant - just a few of the places where we were not welcome. We have been marching and singing "we shall overcome" for more than 50 years of my life. We have chanted "No Justice No Peace" for nearly as long. We have been chanting the mantra "Black Lives Matter" since the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2013.

We have been caught up in a vicious cycle where we march, we protest, and we wait for change.

Then there is more diversity training, racial equity seminars, and more task forces - all designed to bring about racial harmony, understanding, and acceptance. Then we check off the boxes and return to our desks, our offices, board rooms, classrooms, our committees, our boards, and our councils - business as usual.

I, like you, have grown weary of the cycle.

These murders at the hands of law enforcement, have sparked widespread protest across the state and the nation. Once again, the scab has been snatched off of the nasty sore of racism and it has exposed a wound that has not healed and will not heal until we acknowledge that it still festers. Until there is accountability for the gross mistreatment by those sworn to protect and serve, there will be no peace in this country. There will be no healing without justice for victims of these modern day lynchings.

When President Obama was elected, many Americans were lulled into believing in the false notion that we were entering into a post racial era. Sadly, what became evident is that we moved into an era where the need for wearing sheets and hoods was eliminated and at the same time wearing a hoodie became a crime punishable by death. Where burning the American flag is an accepted expression of free speech, kneeling before one is anti-American and unpatriotic.

My friends, elections have consequences. I beg you to ensure your voices are heard at the one place where you must not be silent - the ballot box.

We cannot continue to allow the future of this nation to be driven by a dictator who is destroying our democracy. It is imperative that we work every day from now until November to make certain that the orange man does not return to the white House; that the tweeter in chief is no longer the Commander in Chief.

I urge you to vote for people who believe that you deserve clean air and water like everybody else; vote for people who believe that you and your children and your children's children deserve a sound basic education; vote for people who believe that affordable healthcare is a right; vote for people who believe that you deserve equal protection of the laws.

I'll end my remarks with words you've heard before by a great brave leader who was senselessly killed in this land of the free, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He said, "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action." How prophetic those words were more than 50 years ago, and how sad that they are relevant today.

So, I say to you today that:

It is a time to not just call for change, but to demand it;
Not just yearn for racial equality, demand it;
Not just to seek justice, but to demand it!
Change will not come until we demand it!

Forward with you.

**EMBRACE DIVERSITY.
UNITE—
OR BE DIVIDED,
ROBBED, RULED,
KILLED
BY THOSE WHO SEE
YOU AS PREY.
EMBRACE DIVERSITY
OR BE DESTROYED.**
-OCTAVIA BUTLER

It's Our Time

It has been over four hundred years since the diabolical days of slavery landed in America, and yet African Americans are still overworked, underpaid, and treated unjustly. The more things change, the more they seem to stay the same. I recall years, months, and weeks of marching in the streets of Chapel Hill during the sixties and yet, "We Still Have Not Overcome." We marched for equal rights, the right to sit down in a restaurant, the right to vote, and list goes on and on. Unfortunately, we are literally marching now for the right to live. Black America is in mourning. The police force us to put our hands up, and when we do, they shoot us down. It's a no-win situation everyday. For decades we have been putting



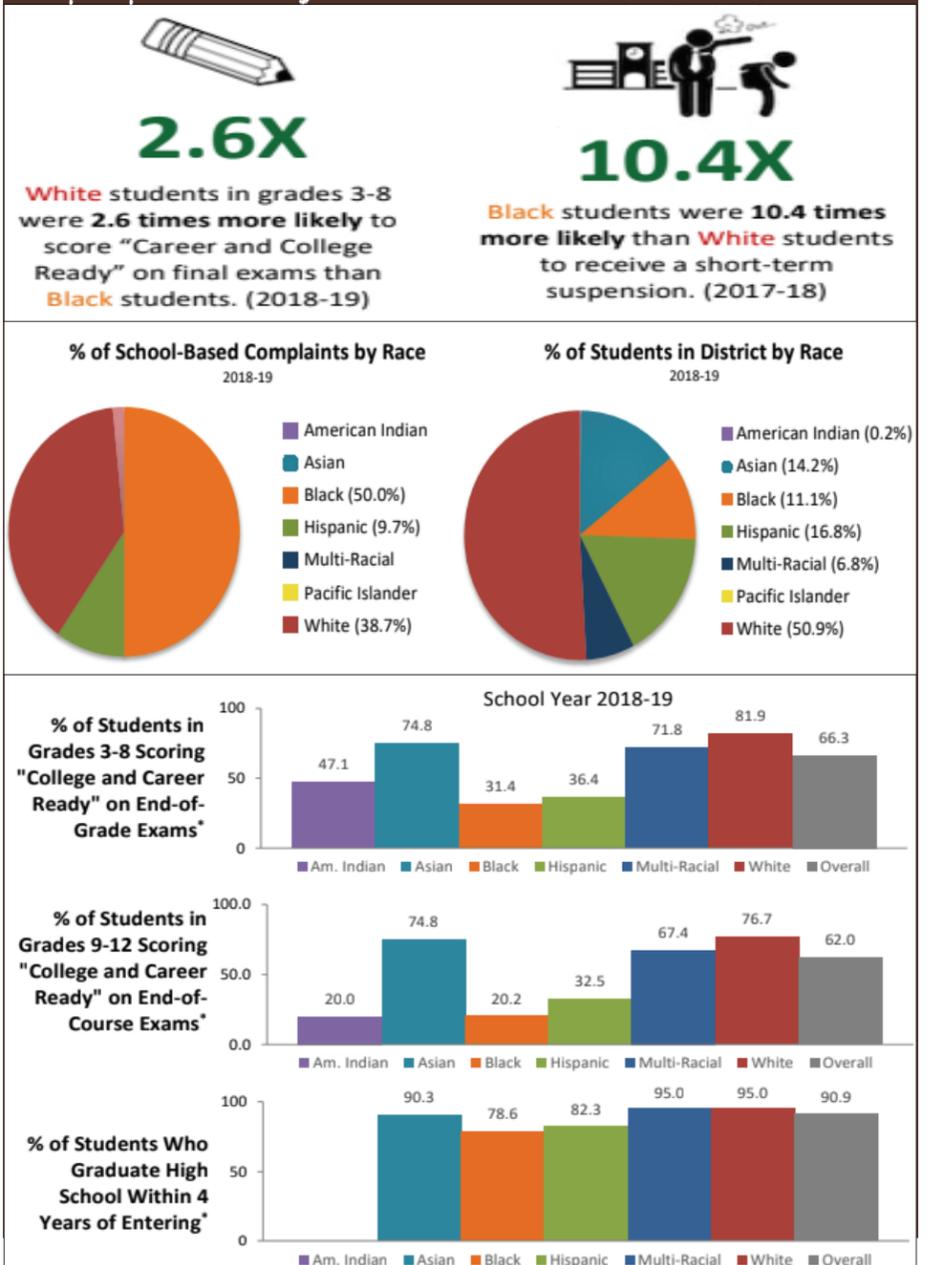
bandages on layers and layers of open wounds that have never healed. How much longer do we have to wait? Like so many others, I feel that enough is enough. I am so proud of these young people for protesting, demanding justice for all people, and leading the charge to end systematic racism with no accountability. How many more of our brothers and sisters have to be murdered in the streets before America stands up to live out its true creed that all men are created equally?

Finally, I believe that our police forces should be reassessed, reformed, and restructured. So many police officers now feel empowered under this present administration. They have become the judge and the jury when dealing with the black community (shoot first, ask questions later). Police officers should not be above the very laws that they are sworn to enforce. Black Lives Matter. 'And That's My Truth'.

Freda Andrews, June 16, 2020

Racism in Education Locally

Graphs provided By Southern Coalition for Social Justice



“The difference between patriotism and nationalism is that the patriot is proud of his country for what it does, and the nationalist is proud of his country no matter what it does; the first attitude creates a feeling of responsibility, but the second a feeling of blind arrogance that leads to war.”

- Sydney J. Harris



Stop Killing Us

I watched part of the video of the murder of George Floyd. I have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, I believe that watching another person be killed for entertainment is gruesome, sick, and disrespectful. But, on the other hand, maybe America needed to see that horror, and maybe I needed to see it, too. Maybe it took seeing that level of brazenness, watching an official of the state slowly and methodology wring the life out of someone in broad daylight with no apparent worry, assured that the police systems, health care systems, and legal systems would protect him. There have been many names before George Floyd's (the children's names are particularly devastating to me: Trayvon Martin, Marlee Juarez, Tamir Rice, Jakelin Caal Maquin). Honestly, those names should have been enough. But it took this -- It took that level of brazenness to shake me out of complacency and ignite my own anger.

STOP KILLING US.

Two weeks ago, my mom called to tell me that my uncle in Indiana had died. I knew that he and several other relatives had had COVID-19. But my uncle had been discharged from the hospital. I'd talked to him on the phone after he got home. I'm not a medical doctor, but, talking to my doctor friends, I know that my relatives with COVID-19 have not received the best health care available. And this makes me more angry than I've ever been in my entire life. Because COVID-19 isn't over. And the odds are that others in my family will get it, too. And I'm not confident that they will get great care either. A week later, my uncle's mother died too.

STOP KILLING US.

A younger cousin of mine is an "essential worker": he manages a fast food place in Alabama. When the restaurant first re-opened, I asked if they were providing enough masks and PPE for him at work. He said no, that he'd probably have to bring his own. He called me the other day and was feeling sick. Even though he works full-time, he doesn't have health insurance. So he doesn't have a doctor. I hope it's not coronavirus, but it could be. Without a doctor's note, he thinks it would be hard to get a test down there. In an ideal world, he would stay home for a couple weeks, but he's almost out of sick leave at his job. So he works sick. He could go to the Emergency Department, but, if he does have the coronavirus, going to the ED could just spread it around more. So I tell him to be careful. I tell him to go to the ED if he starts feeling worse. I tell him to be outdoors when socializing. I tell him to wear a mask. I tell him that I love him and to take care of himself. Because what else can I say? What kind of choices are these?

STOP KILLING US!

I hear people's rationalizations about COVID-19, and I want to scream. "Well, the coronavirus is just in the prisons." (People in prison are human beings. Their lives matter.) Or "it's just in the nursing homes." (People in nursing homes are human beings. Their lives matter.) "The virus isn't really that bad here: it's just all in the chicken plant." (The people who produce the food that nourishes your body are human beings. Their lives matter.) "It's only killing people with diabetes... heart disease... who are overweight... [fill in the blank]." (People with "preexisting conditions" are human beings. Their lives matter, too).

Have I mentioned how angry I am?

- Whitney Robinson

Self-Care for Activists (and everyone!)

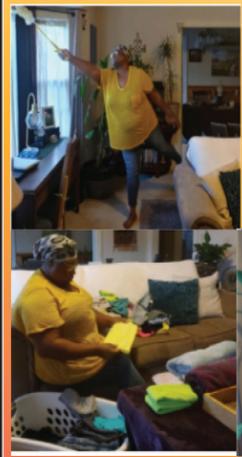
Audre Lorde famously said that "caring for myself is not self-indulgence. It is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." Her words awakened many to the importance of using self-care to back their activism. Self-care is not an act of luxury, but something that recharges and creates an environment essential for you to continue to be able to give. Taking care of yourself involves making sure you have a balanced diet, sleeping enough, caring for those you love, exercising, and doing work that inspires you. When you make sure that you as an individual are full, then you are able to completely give to others.

For me, personally, this means eating a balanced diet, painting when I'm stressed, and taking bubble baths. Self-care can look different for every individual. The most important aspect is that the care you are giving yourself allows you to recharge.

I know that Audre Lorde wasn't the first to say that self-care was necessary. I can almost hear it from my mama, as I remember being woken up on Saturday mornings, while she cleaned with Luther Vandross, Aretha Franklin, or Bobby Brown playing on the radio. My mama was whispering that a part of caring for yourself is caring for your home, that this work is essential.

In today's climate, self-care is even more important. Because in order to stay involved with the Movement for Black Lives, everyone must make sure they stay recharged. That means investing in self-care as fiercely as you invest in uplifting those around you. As powerful women like your mama and Audre Lorde stated, this work of caring is essential. And if you listen to nobody else, your mama is a pretty good place to start.

- Aisha Booze-hall



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- Aisha Booze-hall

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members of the following loved ones who have passed since our last issue:

Cranston Farrington 1957-2020
Gloria Mitchell 1963-2020
Iola Wilson 1929-2020
Rod Gattis



James "Jim" Wallace, author of *Courage in the Moment*, a book featuring his photos of the Civil Rights movement in Chapel Hill, passed on June 14, 2020. He gifted some of his most memorable photos featuring Civil Rights leaders from the Northside community to the Jackson Center where they hang today. Many of these photographs are permanently inscribed in granite on the Freedom Fighters Gateway on the corner of Rosemary and Roberson. Several featuring our neighbors are also on display in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. To see his photos while the office is closed, go to the Jim Wallace collection at: archives.jacksoncenter.info.

Ask Keith

Q: Since North Carolina is one of the states seeing significant increases of Covid-19 cases, it really concerns me that UNC and North Carolina Public Schools plan to open up in August, and the surge of people from all over the globe coming here soon frightens me. Should I be concerned?

A: It's summer time now, and not many students are here; so many elders and others have been able to manage and stay safe during this time. Many of Northside's neighbors are at high risk since they are over the age of 60, and I'm not sure that many of the young people coming into our community will stick to the CDC's guidelines. This really concerns me! As for the public schools, God help the staff who must keep kids who have been kept from each other since Spring Break safe. The Northside Community has always weathered any storm.

Governor's Executive Order: "Face Coverings Mandatory"

Gov. Roy Cooper issued an Executive Order on Wednesday, June 24, that mandates face coverings for all residents older than 2 years old. This order supplants the previous Orange County declaration regarding face-coverings.

If you feel a business is failing to adhere to the policy, please fill out this form so that an Environmental Health Specialist can work with the business to comply with the requirement: www.orangecountync.gov/RegisterComplaint

Get free mask from TOCH Town Hall every Wed. & Sat. 2-5 p.m.!

Congratulations

Ms. Vickie Weaver

Last month's neighborhood
BINGO CHAMPION!

You can't win, if you don't play!
 Join us on the 4th Saturday of every month at 3pm.

Call in to: 646-558-8656
 Meeting ID #: 870-4450-5695
 Call the Jackson Center if you have questions.



July Birthdays

7/1- Janie Johnson
 7/10- Robert Edwards
 7/14- Sinatra Dunn
 7/15- Virginia Carson
 7/17- Donna Bell
 7/17- Yvonne Cleveland
 7/19- Sabrina Sidora
 7/26- Chaitra Powell

