



June 5, 2020

**Statement on George Floyd's needless death
Steve Cramer, President and CEO
mpls downtown council and Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District**

We are heartbroken. The mpls downtown council and Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District joins our city and nation in mourning and condemning the police killing of George Floyd. Mr. Floyd's death is a painful reminder of the racial injustice deeply embedded in our community and America.

The stark reality business and civic leaders and elected officials must confront is this: no matter how well intentioned we or the goals of past investments, programs, and policies have been, they were insufficient to effect real transformation. Communities of color tell us they feel deep alienation from the wider society. We all need to work together to change this, and our organization is committed to joining that effort. We will start by listening to those most affected by systemic racial discrimination and injustice.

As we listen, we will examine our organization to identify how we can use our resources to bring about the change that is needed moving forward in our work and relationships. Our board is reckoning with our role now and into the future, to do our part to make just treatment and wider economic opportunity for all people the only acceptable standard.

To this point we do not have the answers, nor should we presume the answers will come from within our ranks. Rather we will work to educate ourselves and find ways to listen and be in genuine dialogue with people of color and the larger community, and then act in ways that bring about the change our city needs and deserves.

We have a long-standing relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD). We acknowledge the swift action of police chief Medaria Arradondo in terminating the officers involved. Moving forward, our organization will insist that the needed culture and policing change begin immediately. Good partners speak truth to one another. Our responsibility is to do so with MPD in support of the substantive reforms they must make now to restore community trust.