

## Resolution of the Chatham County Council on Aging Board of Directors

Whereas, management and the Board of Directors of the Chatham County Council on Aging have reflected on the events of this past week, following the global outrage to the senseless and inhumane murder of George Floyd; and

Whereas, we have been touched by the expressions of anger, sorrow, dismay and shame shared by state, regional and local leaders of the nonprofit community—in these eloquent and powerful words:

*“As we have seen an outpouring of response to the killing of George Floyd, I have watched the news stories with a heavy heart. It is difficult to find words that fully capture the anger and pain that I feel and that we see reflected in our communities.... I cannot release from my mind the picture of a white police officer with his knee on a black man’s neck, with hands in his pocket, in public view with other police officers looking on with an expectation of impunity.... This was not an isolated incident; it stings all the more because it’s happened so many times before.... [W]e have made progress, but the forces that deprive Black lives the belief that they matter are persistent... We need our collective White, Brown, Black voices to join together to say out loud that we are committed to anti-racism. And we need our actions to demonstrate that commitment.... We need to hold ourselves accountable for how policies and practices are enacted in the organizations we lead and in the communities we serve.”*

– Jeanne Canina Tedrow, President and CEO, North Carolina Center for Nonprofits

*“There is a deadly virus lurking in our community, and our nation.... At Triangle Community Foundation, we’ve spent this time trying to figure out how to best support these communities and the nonprofits that provide services for them, to do what we can to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. But, even in the midst of this pandemic, we know that there exists an even more deadly virus: racism.... To negate someone’s humanity for simply being a person of color is wrong, it’s against what we purport to stand for in America, and it needs to stop.... It’s up to all of us.”*

– Lori O’Keefe, President and CEO, Triangle Community Foundation

*“To be effective as a nonprofit and social services community – a community in which many of us benefit from race and class advantages – we must strive to show up for racial justice every day, especially right now. I imagine many of us are exploring the best ways we can show up in our professional and personal lives; I invite you to share those explorations with your peers and colleagues.”*

– Hilary Pollan, Community Partners Analyst, Chatham County Manager's Office; and

Whereas, as the *Professional Gerontologists Code of Ethics* mandates Respect for People's Rights, Dignity, and Diversity (*Principle D*) and Social and Advocacy Responsibilities (*Principle E*); and

Whereas, as UNC-Greensboro Graduate Gerontology Program Coordinator Elise Eifert reminds us, *“Aging begins at birth and is influenced by many things, including racism, over the life course. If we want people to have the opportunity to live long, successful lives, we must do the work to create a society that fights against social injustice and truly becomes anti-racist.”*

Now, therefore, we, the Board of Directors of the Chatham County Council on Aging, do hereby unanimously reaffirm the following belief, expressed in our bylaws:

*There shall be no discrimination as to eligibility for services because of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin or sexual orientation.*

And equally important, we call on all residents of Chatham County to advocate and support realization of what is envisioned in the 2018-2023 Aging Plan for Chatham:

*Our vision is a Chatham County that offers older adults, and all residents, a safe, affordable, accessible, and inclusive community that promotes wellness, presents and respects choices, values diversity, recognizes and uses people’s strengths, and supports individuals aging in community with dignity.*

Adopted, this the fourth day of June 2020.

  
Larry Ross, President