



June 6, 2020

Mr. Stephan P. Witherspoon
NAACP Duluth
310 N 1st. Ave West
Duluth, MN 55806

Dear Mr. Witherspoon:

The India Association of Minnesota (IAM) on behalf of the Asian Indian community in Minnesota is deeply saddened by the outrageous killing of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department. We stand in solidarity with NAACP and all the citizens of Minnesota in condemning this abhorrent behavior and the racism underlying it in the strongest possible terms. Please know that the entire Asian Indian Community in Minnesota stands for "Justice for George Floyd".

The events of the past few days have been a stark reminder of the systemic racism that still pervades our country. They have also provided us with an unvarnished view of the anger and the despair felt by the people of color who have been subjected to extreme injustice for over 300 years. Our inaction makes us complicit in this injustice. We know it does not suffice to only express outrage. We must work alongside our brothers and sisters of color to confront and change the attitudes and policies that have compounded the inequities over such an extended period.

The Asian Indian Community in Minnesota offers its deep and enduring support to NAACP as we move forward in the process of healing and rebuilding trust. Within our own community, we have initiated honest conversations to confront our own attitudes and biases and are working on educational initiatives to raise awareness of the Civil Rights movement, its history, and its influence on policies that opened doors to immigration.

We are also in discussions with other Minnesota-based groups about possible proactive long-term initiatives to support the Black community in Minnesota. We are aware that much hard work lies ahead as the cities and states strive to change laws, reform police departments, and construct an environment that fully recognizes and respects our fellow citizens of color. Our community is energized and anxious to work with you to achieve these long-overdue goals.

Please let us know how we can contribute.

Sincerely,

Sreeni Checka | President | India Association of Minnesota
314 518 6930 | sreeni.checka@iamn.org

India Association of Minnesota (IAM), founded in 1973, is an umbrella coalition organization representing 50,000+ Asian Indians (the second largest group of foreign born Minnesotans) and 50+ partner organizations that represent cultural, regional, service, spiritual, religious, and social causes across the community.