



Contact:
Ethelind Kaba,
VP of External Affairs, Center for Economic Inclusion
612-351-8206, ekaba@centerforeconomicinclusion.org

STATEMENT REGARDING THE VERDICT IN THE TRIAL OF DEREK CHAUVIN

(APRIL 20, 2021) There is no amount of justice that can justify the violence that George Perry Floyd, Jr. suffered on May 25, 2020. Yet, today, we honor his life, taken without right or cause, and breathe with gratitude for the jury that saw fit to convict Derek Chauvin on all three counts of murder.

For almost one year, we have collectively held our breath, while also holding onto hope. As this verdict is read, we long to breathe sighs of relief, yet we know they are followed by deep, heavy breaths that carry the weight of fear.

We exhale breaths of relief honoring the brilliant prosecution led by Jerry W. Blackwell, founding partner and CEO of Blackwell Burke P.A., the steadfast and fearless fight of the family of George Floyd, Jr., and the tireless advocacy of freedom fighters at George Floyd Square and similar squares throughout the country. We thank them for their tremendous bravery and relentless pursuit of justice. We promise, George Floyd, Jr. will never be forgotten. His life mattered.

With gratitude, we thank our youth, community activists, and leaders on-the-ground, in board rooms and court rooms who have led and continue to lead this national reckoning, joining generations before us demanding justice for George and for every Black life extinguished on the road to freedom.

While this verdict is for Derek Chauvin, America must reckon with the charges of systemic racism and policy violence that are used as weapons of mass destruction against Black people every day. The last 335 days must serve as a mandate for action and systems change across every sector in our nation – economic, criminal justice, health, wealth and homeownership gaps, education, and more -- that continue to devalue, harm, and take Black lives.

This is not the end of the story. The final chapter will come when racial equity and inclusion are achieved. As a community, we will continue to rise, lead, and demand change. We do it for George, for Daunte, for Breonna, for Philando, and for Jamar. This national reckoning will continue.

At the Center for Economic Inclusion, we stand in solidarity with leaders committed to the principles of anti-racism, equity, inclusion and belonging who are willing to reckon with the depths of change and power yielding required to build an economy that works for everyone. We walk in relentless pursuit of that goal every day.