

Statement to Raleigh Planning Commission
June 9, 2020

Eric Garner. Sandra Bland. Michael Brown. Shantel Davis. Atatiana Jefferson. Laquan McDonald. Tony McDade. Pamela Turner. Korryn Gaines. Trayvon Martin. Tamir Rice. Walter Scott. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. George Floyd. These are names we all know and we cannot look away from the circumstances surrounding their murders.

America's history of racially motivated murders and systemic racism requires action. That action may require taking a hard look at existing policy, procedures, and inclusion methods throughout our City. Whereas our purview as Planning Commission members is limited to the interpretation of the City's primary policy document for land use and development, we are members of this community and we make decisions that affect neighborhoods for generations.

I recognize that we have a long journey ahead of us to see diversity, equity, and inclusion at the forefront of development decisions in Raleigh. For that reason, I propose that at our next meeting we discuss crafting a recommendation to City Council to call for a review and assessment of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure that our policies do not disproportionately affect communities of color.

I affirm that Black Lives Matter.