



Dear Metropolitan Swimming Community,

Over the last few months we have witnessed our city, our state and our nation go through some challenging times. More recently, the last few weeks have been filled with devastating news stories about countless Black Americans who have been injured or killed in encounters with police or targeted with violence because of the color of their skin. These stories, although recent, are sadly part of an ongoing crisis in our society that affects us all and should no longer be ignored.

The recent tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery have brought back to the forefront the enormous challenges our nation and our city face around systemic racism, social injustice and police brutality. We have witnessed decades of countless Black American lives lost and at this point these calamities tragically feel familiar. Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland, Botham Jean, Alton Sterling, Atatiana Jefferson and countless others have all lost their lives at the hands of police in America; to the extent that their deaths are so familiar, the details have begun to echo each other. We have reached a turning point in this country where we must acknowledge these calamities and recognize that we have a responsibility to stand with our fellow Americans to bring about change.

Metropolitan Swimming acknowledges the catastrophic plight our nation is currently in. We recognize the suffering and pain in Black communities across America due to systemic racism, social injustice and police brutality. We stand together and we show support for the victims and their families deeply affected. We join our fellow citizens and swimming community members in our Black communities and declare that their lives matter. We understand that our internal support is no longer enough and we must speak out loudly against racism, inequity and inequality impacting the lives of far too many Black Americans in our society. We understand the power of our voices and are committed to using our voices to call for an end to systemic racism, social injustice and police brutality.

To our members- We must recognize that within our sport of swimming and other sports within our nation there still remains inequities and inequalities. Collectively, we must all use this time to listen, educate and support one another. We must continue to show respect and human decency for one another and show that we care. We must acknowledge that our communities deserve not only our support, but our action. We will not allow the many lives that have been lost to go in vain and will use this opportunity to impact change for our current and future generations.

Metropolitan Swimming, in conjunction with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, is committed to demonstrating support, leadership and excellence both in and out of the pool. In doing so we remain extremely committed to fulfill our mission to, **“promote, develop and improve competitive swimming through education, support and opportunities for participation to a diverse swimming community.”** Additionally, we remain extremely committed to our vision, **“to inspire and provide quality opportunities for our members to achieve excellence in the sport of competitive swimming.”**

We invite our members to share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions with our Board of Directors & Diversity, Equity and Inclusion chairs to help us continue our mission and assist in implementing programs and policies that reflect our commitment. We invite members to discuss how we can use our swimming platform to educate and inform each other on continuing to be part of a solution. We must all band together to seek change in our communities. We can no longer choose to stay silent and not address the root of the problem. “We are One Team and One Family.”