We grieve with the families and loved ones of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, as well as the many unarmed Black Americans whose lives have been taken at the hands of racial injustice. They were and must be remembered as so much more than names on a list. To many, they were friends, neighbors, family and community members whose lives were lost too soon and senselessly.

We share the hurt and frustration felt by so many in our country and in the Pittsburgh region. While exacerbated by recent events, this pain is not new – it’s long-standing and results from years of inequity endured by our region’s communities of color. Our society’s deep-rooted racism is manifest not only in acts of violence, but also, more insidiously, in quiet inaction.

Racism is at the root of these challenges and is a thread woven through the story of our country and the Pittsburgh region. We must confront it. We must clearly identify it as a poison in our midst. It’s pervasive. It’s dehumanizing. It’s deadly. Only by identifying racism can we take action to end it.

With each other and with public and private sector leaders across our region, we stand united against hatred, violence and racism. We stand with and support our Black community and leadership. We recognize this is a collective fight, and we’re in this fight together.

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