From: Clarence E. Anthony | National League of Cities (NLC)
To: bbethune@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject: [External]National League of Cities Is Here to Support You
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National League of Cities

Dear NLC Members,

I write to you today as the CEO of the National League of Cities, as your colleague, and as your friend.

As CEO, I want you to know that the National League of Cities is here to support you during this challenging time. As your colleague, I want you to know that I am acutely aware of the leadership demands you are facing right now. As your friend, I want you to know that I am tired of violence towards African Americans by members of law enforcement. I am tired of implicit and explicit racial biases that permeate our society. And I am tired of the inequities in healthcare, finances, education, housing, nutrition and other basic needs.

We have a crisis of humanity in this country, and we're seeing this crisis reach its boiling point right now. The current situation in America is not just about the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police officers. This is about communities that have been left behind for hundreds of years.

This is about the communities that have been hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is about a lack of hope and a lack of agency that is felt throughout the Black community. In the words of civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, "I am sick and tired of being sick and tired" – that is the feeling of many African Americans in our nation.

You ran for office and work in local government to make a difference in your community. Now, your residents are looking to you for answers, guidance and support.

You have a great power and a great responsibility that no one else in this nation has. You, as the person elected by your neighbors and community members, can make a real difference right now – and your residents are looking to you right now for leadership.

I challenge you to use the power of the pulpit to heal your community and chart a path forward that prioritizes equity and humanity. I challenge you to look to your colleagues in other cities for support and unity. I challenge you to educate yourself on the history of race in your own community and state, because it affects more than the African American communities, it affects all

communities of color. And I challenge you to advance policies and programs that will make a difference in the lives of every person of color that rely on you to lead.

In 2014, the National League of Cities created our **Race, Equity and Leadership department** to strengthen local leaders' knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities and divisions and to build more equitable communities. It has been an honor to work with many of you over the past six years to advance this mission in your cities.

In the coming days and weeks, we are continuing this work and are working to provide you with the support you need. I encourage you to read and share the resources enclosed below. If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at **real@nlc.org**.

Things will get better. However it is up to us to ensure that we make it better by working together.

In solidarity,

Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director

RACE, EQUITY AND LEADERSHIP RESOURCES

Responding to Racial Tension in Your City: A Municipal Action Guide

A guide that includes important contextual and tactical information to support your municipality's efforts to respond effectively. **LEARN MORE**

Advancing Racial Equity in Your City: A Municipal Action Guide

Compiles six immediate steps for improving outcomes for all residents. **LEARN MORE**

Repository of City Racial Equity Policies and Decisions

Review examples of concrete policy and budgetary changes local elected officials have made to prioritize racial equity in their cities, towns, and villages. **LEARN MORE**

My Brother's Keeper Landscape

City leaders respond the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge by tackling the disparities that face our nation's boys and young men of color (BYMoC). **LEARN MORE**

City Profiles

Learn how 12 cities and their elected leaders around the country are advancing racial equity in their communities. **LEARN MORE**

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