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May 31, 2020

These are troubling times but we are made for this moment!

The leadership of the Founding Chapter of One Hundred Black Men (OHBM) is fiercely angered by the killing of George Floyd, the blatant racist incident against a Black man in Central Park, and other comments and events that have taken place. While we support the civil disobedience of the National Action Network and others, we do not condone the violence that has accompanied several protests around the country. We do, however, recognize that this violent response comes from a Peoples' pain and frustration in the midst of healing from a pandemic that laid bare the racial disparities in this country. They want their cries for justice and change to be answered.

Rest assured that the **One Hundred Black Men of New York is not standing on the sidelines**. On Saturday, OHBM president, Michael Garner, spoke before thousands at a massive rally in front of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building. Shortly, a **press release** will be issued to express our chapter's outrage at recent racist events and make a call to action focused on systemic change. On **June 8th** there will be an OHBM sponsored Zoom call to address recent issues and highlight the importance of civic engagement and action for Black men. On **June 5th** we will be hosting an online rally and talent show for young people to express their feelings about these matters and discuss the roles they can play as agents of change for now and in the future.

Throughout the pandemic, the Founding Chapter **Stepped Up** to provide 6,000 meals to hospital workers; 50,000 masks to homeless shelters, senior centers and health facilities; and weekly webinars on COVID-19 relief for small businesses. Within two weeks we will begin providing \$800,000 in grants to support Black businesses impacted by COVID-19. So far, we have partnered with over 30 corporate, health, community and government entities on COVID-19. Most importantly, **100 OHBM members** Stepped Up and played a major role in this work!

A powerful membership, name recognition, influence and access are our greatest resources, but it is our legacy that mandates that we **Step Up Again** and develop a long term strategic approach to helping our brothers and sisters in this ongoing fight!

We join the **Asian, Hispanic and Jewish Communities** in fighting and speaking out against all forms of Racism. We are solution oriented and vow to create a society where all are treated fairly and become part of the **American Dream**.

From 1619 to 2020, the **"Struggle Continues"**. Leaders lead during a crisis.

More to come...

In Community,

Mr. Courtney A. Bennett

Executive Director

One Hundred Black Men

Yours in the Struggle,

Michael J. Garner

President

One Hundred Black Men