



1016 W Sixth Ave., Suite 303

Anchorage, AK 99501

June 3, 2020

Dear Anchorage Chamber Members,

This week, our city and the Anchorage Chamber join with others nationwide in outrage, sorrow, and righteous indignation against racism. Our business community stands together in support of racial equality, equity, and inclusion. Recent events are an unfortunate reminder that progress that has been made is not enough. We grieve with communities around the country and are encouraging Anchorage business and civic leaders at all levels to come together and adopt policies that promote a better quality of life for all.

We must acknowledge that systemic racism is pervasive in our country, and as an organization whose mission is economic inclusion, we recognize the tremendous costs of institutional discrimination, particularly to communities of color, and especially the African American and Black community. We know that this systemic racism plays out in the lives of non-white + business owners who are denied equal opportunity and a seat at the "economic opportunity" table because of their race and ethnic background.

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce condemns the senseless killings and acts of violence that are repeatedly directed at the African American community and all communities of color. We grieve the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and the countless others who have lost their lives. This senseless violence was also seen by Asian Americans being scapegoated, harassed and victimized in the era of COVID-19. We must come together as communities of color and allies, neighbors and friends, business leaders and decision-makers to stop this crisis once and for all.

As an organization, our board, staff, and members recognize the importance of intersectionality and economic diversity and inclusion and the power of our collective voices when we unite. Racism is deadly, discrimination that crushes our soul, and at this very moment it is being fed by those in power, so we must find ways to stop its growing boldness. The nation will rebuild, and we will be there to help as it does. We will work to do even more in the months and years ahead, even more intentionally and even more committed. Please contact the Anchorage Chamber if there's anything we can do to connect your business with resources to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in your workplace, workforce, and marketplace dynamics.

#### **Anchorage Chamber presents... Diversity In Review**

Diversity is critical to our success as a Chamber. We present *Diversity in Review*, an annual publication detailing our board and membership demographics and highlight efforts of our diversity program and committee. [DOWNLOAD PDF](#)

#### **Anchorage Chamber Diversity Mission**

Our mission is to better serve and advocate for the business community by becoming a more open, inclusive, and diverse organization reflective of the makeup of Anchorage. Visit [anchoragechamber.org/diversity-inclusion](http://anchoragechamber.org/diversity-inclusion).

Be safe and be well.

Bruce Bustamante, President & CEO,  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Jocasta Olp, Diversity Coordinator,  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce