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**NYC Clerical-Administrative Employees Local 1549, District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

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“The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

**We do not want to relive our past by destroying our present so that we are left with no future.**

Over the past weeks and months our resilience as a country and people has been tested to where we were forced to face and fight an unknown and invisible demon called COVID-19. This pandemic has devastated the lives and homes of so many thousands of people and families across this great nation and world. We have experienced personally or know of so many who have succumbed to this terrible killer virus.

That is why as Local 1549 we stand in total support of peaceful protesting focused on fixing and eliminating a very different visible demon and pandemic in this country called Racism and Hatred.

We as a Union have a long history of struggle, fighting, and lost lives for just causes and know what it means to fight for justice against unjust and cruel practices against all people.

We stand with the peaceful protesters against the horrific and inexcusable actions against George Floyd by the Minnesota Police officer that ended Floyd’s life. We stand against any such hateful practice and action by anyone against another human being. As Local 1549 we side in prayer with the family of George Floyd and all other victims of such hate crimes. However, we neither support nor stand with those who seek justice through senseless acts of violence against people and abhorrent acts of destruction of businesses and property. These types of vengeful acts do nothing but destroy the lives of people and communities already suffering from a life-devastating pandemic. These communities are also where our hard working Union sisters and brothers have built their homes, businesses, and lives.

We cannot stand and watch our fellow sisters and brothers and their life sustaining communities be destroyed by people who believe in practicing another side of Racism and Hatred.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

We denounce any acts of violence and destruction that take away from achieving true justice for George Floyd and all who have been victims to injustice born out Hatred.

In Love and Solidarity,

Eddie Rodriguez,  
President, Local 1549