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BLACK LIVES MATTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Floyd's killing underscores a pervasive, painful and unacceptable reality in American life: Black communities and communities of color continue to be subjected to social, political and educational inequality, discrimination, and outright racism systematized and institutionalized in the very fabric of our entire country.

These inequities impact all facets of American life. The COVID-19 pandemic has both exposed anew and further exacerbated that impact.

From the outset, NJPRF has been committed to seeking and prioritizing every opportunity to use its influence and dollars to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.

Our stated mission is: New Jersey Pandemic Relief Fund exists to meet four critical challenges of our state in the face of the COVID-19 crisis: stop the spread, support the healthcare community, provide help for the vulnerable, and rebuild our communities.

Each of these critical challenges disproportionately impact Black communities, communities of color, and low-income communities. Dismantling institutional and systemic racism is central to COVID rebuilding efforts. Racial disparities in education, in economic opportunities, in housing, in access to quality healthcare, and most significantly, in public safety practices, undermine the NJPRF mission.

Taking an equity lens to our investments is not just fair, it is the smartest investment we can make in rebuilding a future that can serve all New Jerseyans.

We feel the greatest appreciation for all who have joined our work to repair and rebuild our most vulnerable communities struggling under the weight of COVID. We invite all others compelled to make New Jersey a transformational leader in equitable and fair recovery, and healing to join with us on the long, but urgently needed hard work ahead.