

Boulder Municipal Court

Boulder County Justice Center
P.O. Box 8015
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www.bouldercolorado.gov/court



June 8, 2020

Dear City of Boulder Community:

In recent weeks, millions of people from across the nation and around the world have expressed their outrage and dismay over the unjust and discriminatory treatment that black Americans have endured for centuries due to the systemic, institutionalized racism that pervades American life. We have been moved by the actions of those willing to speak for others whose voices are often not heard. We are compelled now to join those voices and the many courts that have now expressed their remorse for the role that our justice system has played in the overrepresentation of black Americans in our criminal justice system. Our black brothers and sisters still suffer from an American history of slavery, Jim Crow, segregation and hate.

As the Washington State Supreme Court stated just this past week:

“We cannot undo this wrong-but we can recognize our ability to do better in the future. We can develop a greater awareness of our own conscious and unconscious biases in order to make just decisions in individual cases, and we can administer justice and support court rules in a way that brings greater racial justice to our system as a whole.”

Washington Supreme Court letter dated June 4, 2020.

We cannot say it better than those nine justices. The individual rights set forth in the United States and Colorado Constitutions apply to all and it is incumbent on judges, court staff and the legal community to insure that the language of our Constitution bears the fruit of justice to which we are all entitled.

Proclamations and statements have little meaning unless they are furthered by real action. The Boulder Municipal Court must and will continue dialogue in staff meetings, educational pursuits and self-reflection. We will listen to our black colleagues and learn from their individual experiences. We will hold ourselves and our colleagues to the high standards we must meet to be worthy of the privilege of serving as judges and court leaders for this community.

We are inspired by the strength of so many and are hopeful today, despite the great turmoil around us. It is in these moments of pain and despair that we all can find the strength and resolve to do what is right and just.

Sincerely,

Linda Cooke

Linda P. Cooke
Presiding Judge

Jeffrey Cahn

Jeff Cahn
Associate Judge

James Cho

James Cho
Court Administrator

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Deputy Court Administrator