



Friends and supporters,

We are deeply angered and saddened by the tragic and senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and too many others. As an organization that seeks to help eradicate the inequities in our community, we have struggled with what to say that will both honor these lives and recognize this watershed moment.

Our work ahead as a nation to address systemic racism is significant. Each of us has a role to play. As a first step, and to ensure we represent the voices of our stakeholders, we choose to listen.

*Listen to our diverse team of employees* - who have expressed hurt, sadness, disappointment, frustration, and anxiety while also voicing great pride and hope in the potential of our work and our people to make a difference.

*Listen to our Scholar Athletes* - providing a space for them to connect, share, and vent on the deeply personal and painful realities they face while underscoring that *their lives matter*.

*Listen to our Board and advisors* - a brilliant force of thoughtful community and business leaders who fully support our ongoing efforts to improve the Washington region.

Every day we commit ourselves to improving our community. The heart of this work and the soul of our enterprise is at the Youth Baseball Academy in Ward 7. Throughout the year, more than 150 Scholar Athletes come through our doors to learn and play, grow and thrive, be protected and nourished. The Academy exists to interrupt the patterns of systemic racial and social injustice that combine to cut short the full potential of our children.

For over a year and a half, we have been quietly listening to our neighbors in Wards 6, 7, and 8 as part of work we describe as Collective Impact - designed to convene key stakeholders and develop comprehensive strategies that help ensure affordable housing, quality education, and wellness resources are accessible to low income residents within their neighborhoods.

These words represent our reaction to current events - protests against police brutality and for racial justice happening throughout the country. Some of our staff members have participated in local protests, and we support them. Our words also represent reflections on our ongoing work about which we are so passionate.

But it is just the beginning. As you read this, our team is drafting a holistic and sustainable response focused on cultivating the equitable community our organization, fans, and city deserves.

We express our deepest thanks to the many friends and supporters who have championed our work over the years and look forward to sharing a more detailed action plan soon. We ask you to hold us accountable to our plans and join us in carrying those forward - celebrating victories along the way and renewing our resolve when faced with setbacks.

Humbly,

Tal Alter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Washington Nationals Philanthropies & Youth Baseball Academy

