

For Release 10:50 pm
May 31, 2020
Contact: Todd Polikoff
tpolikoff@jewishakron.org



The Jewish Community Board of Akron mourns the death of George Floyd
And calls for unity to prevent the unlawful use of authority against people of color

Akron, OH— The Jewish Community Board of Akron (JCBA) decries the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Additionally, we express great concern and sadness for a disturbing pattern of bigotry, racism, disparate treatment, and the unreasonable and unlawful use of authority against people of color.

We stand with the African American community and all communities in mourning the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the persistent racism that afflicts our nation. Here in Greater Akron, the organized Jewish community is in deep partnership and relationship with leaders in the Black community. We are reaching out to these friends, members of the clergy, and other civic leaders to express to them our solidarity and support and to ask how we can be of assistance in these difficult days and beyond.

Our Jewish traditions and values compel us to stand up for the rights of all people without prejudice or bias. As both Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized over 50 years ago in Selma, Alabama; we have a collective responsibility for the fate of mankind and we collectively have the authority and power to determine our fate. We call upon leaders of all parties and upon every American to be moved to act to build understanding and better relationships between people of all races and all faiths.

###

Based on Jewish values, The Jewish Community Board of Akron (JCBA) convenes and leads the Greater Akron Jewish Community and leverages its resources to assure the continuity of the Jewish people, support a secure State of Israel, care for Jews in need here and abroad, and mobilize on issues of concern to the local community, all with our local, national, and international partners.