

Dear Friend.

Brooklyn is home to the largest and most concentrated Black population in America. [Brooklyn Community Services](#), exists to empower residents to maximize their potential. For too long, police brutality has been a threat to the great potential of our borough.

The tragic violence against Black people that has sparked protests globally is a devastating reminder of the void that still exists in strengthening equality for all. To quote the great Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Silence is unacceptable and I want to be clear:

Brooklyn Community Services stands in solidarity with the fight against systemic oppression, generational racism, and white supremacy. It is our duty to use our platform to ensure that we join the fight for equality and to stand by all those affected by senseless violence. We will not wait for another unfortunate hashtag to call for unity! For over 150 years, we have been on the frontline in the battle for social justice as a Human Services Provider. Now, my goal is to shift BCS to be a Human Services Organization with a Social Justice mission -- to expose inequity and champion the communities that we serve.

With our Human Services colleagues, we call for city funding that prioritizes community supports, instead of over-policing. I know there is still so much work to be done; our work as Human Services Professionals is as crucial as ever.

To our People, Brooklynites, clients and community...we see you, we hear you, and we are with you.

#BlackLivesMatter

#JusticeforGeorgeFloyd

If you are wondering what to do next, here are some resources to inspire you:

Join us:

www.WeAreBCS.org

Support:

[Black owned Restaurants](#) (not an exhaustive list, but many are here in Brooklyn)
[Black Owned Businesses in Brooklyn](#)
[Black owned Bookstores](#)

Read:

[Anti-racist reading list](#)
[Anti-racist reading list for kids](#)
[Black History Boot Camp](#)

Take action:

[Safely Protest in a Pandemic](#)
[Vote and Fight for Fair Elections](#)



Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Farris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Janelle Farris
CEO, Brooklyn Community Services