

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DOWNTOWN ALLIANCE

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Black Lives Matter

The Downtown Alliance stands in solidarity with those fighting to end systemic racism and injustice. These last weeks have been turbulent, violent and emotionally electric. We have witnessed anger, grief, tension, and pain lance communities across the country from our screens and have watched those moments play out right here at home in our very own Downtown Fayetteville.

Though our experiences are not the same, recent events – the Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis, the killing of George Floyd, and the economic realities of how to keep our small businesses above water – have had a seismic impact on us all. We acknowledge that our member business owners - our friends, neighbors, colleagues and customers - are hurting.

As an advocacy group for our downtown business members we stand united in outrage at the senseless death of George Floyd. We know there is work to do. We know the way forward may be an imperfect process. As fellow business owners dedicated to this community, we understand we are accountable to speak about inequality regardless of whether it is comfortable for us, or not.

Many conversations have begun in our business community. The Downtown Alliance is committed to be a part of that conversation -- to act as listeners, partners, facilitators and whatever else is needed to promote unity and overcome that which seeks to divide us. Moving forward, we will participate in merchant forums for healing expression, education and action necessary to promote equality in our business community.

The time to act is now. We stand with each other and for each other to strengthen our community, and truly embody the ideal of #downtownfaystrong.

If you have questions or comments about this statement, we welcome you to email us at shopdowntownfaync@gmail.com.