



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

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MEMORANDUM FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 29, 2020
To: The Florida A&M University Student Body
Subject: FAMU SGA Statement on Racial Injustice and Police Brutality

Over the past few months, our country has once again been wrestling with a sad truth that we are not living in a post-racial society. As we look on social media, and the daily news, we see a recurring theme: constant threats towards black lives that are on full display 24/7, that simply put, shows that we don't matter to some. However, we persevere with every chance we get to celebrate our blackness with the world as a chance to showcase the dreams of our ancestors manifesting into reality. As students of Florida A&M University, we recognize our own, as well as others that have had their lives taken prematurely from the scourge of racism.

The death of Ahmaud Arbery is seen not only as a restriction on our freedom to participate in leisure activities but an unwarranted and illegitimate claim that racially charged vigilante justice is acceptable. George Floyd, who lost his life to the very people who should be protecting him on a Minneapolis street. Christian Cooper's run-in with Amy Cooper in Central Park, where Amy Cooper weaponized her privilege against him while birdwatching. As well as, the death of our own, Jamee Johnson whose story continues to perpetuate and exacerbate the mistrust between our community and those sworn to protect it. Stories passed down like Emmet Till, the Tulsa massacre, and "Ax Handle Saturday" reflect how damaging the stigmas that surround the black community are, even in our backyard. These and countless other untold stories in our backyard and other communities around the country are why we cannot continue to remain silent, and we must speak up and pursue the treatment we believe in and deserve.

As representatives of a historically black institution, it is our mission to disrupt those notions. We must use our talents to expand and protect our community as we have done in the past while taking our agency to new levels. Only together can we emphatically say that we've achieved the unthinkable, and our ancestors' wildest dreams.

During such arduous times, we also understand the emotional toll this can take on our students. We highly encourage taking advantage of counseling services offered at the University if you are currently enrolled for a summer semester or once we return in the fall. They can be reached at (833) 848-1765 for after-hours counseling or you can make an appointment at (850) 599-3145. The National Suicide Hotline can also be utilized for anyone in emotional distress at 1-800-273-8255.

Xavier McClinton & Carrington Whigham

FAMU | Student Government Association | Student Body President & Vice President

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