

Three Parks Independent Democrats

We at Three Parks Independent Democrats are appalled at the murder of George Floyd at the hands of four police officers. Sadly, this atrocity was not unique: African-Americans and people of color throughout the country, including in New York, are disproportionately victims of police brutality.

The killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless others, the terrible wounds inflicted upon communities of color by the COVID epidemic, and the militarized police response to the resulting protests, have brought our country to a turning point. It is well past time to root out and end the injustices so deeply ingrained in our city, state and country: systemic racism, a biased legal system, white supremacy, and police practices that unfairly target people of color.

Three Parks Independent Democrats supports those who are exercising their constitutional right to protest these crimes in our city and throughout our country. At the same time, we condemn any attempts to deliberately undermine peaceful protests by inciting or participating in violence. We urge our elected officials to pass the STAT Act (A.5946/S.147) and to repeal 50-A and the Walking While Trans ban. Together, these would be a start to implementing meaningful police reform in New York.

We also support the eight policies recommended by Campaign Zero to reduce police violence: requiring de-escalation, requiring officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers, restricting officers from shooting at moving vehicles, developing a Force Continuum that limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific types of resistance, banning chokeholds and strangleholds, requiring a warning before resorting to deadly force, requiring that all alternatives are exhausted before using deadly force, and requiring officers to report each time they use force, or threaten to use force, against civilians. While some of these policies have been implemented in New York, all eight should be implemented immediately— city, state, and nationwide.

Below is a list of organizations that currently have campaigns that could use your help to change the system:

- Call to action to repeal 50-A in New York State: <https://www.innocenceproject.org/petitions/repeal-50-a-to-stop-hiding-police-disciplinary-records-from-the-public/>
- Campaign Zero's "8 Can't Wait" - eight policies to decrease police violence by 72%: <https://8cantwait.org/>
- Active campaigns at Color of Change: <https://colorofchange.org/campaigns/active/>
- Bails Funds by State/City: <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#state>
- Google doc with anti-racism resources: <https://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>
- Anti-racist reading list: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/books/review/antiracist-reading-list-ibram-x-kendi.html>

We support the organizations based in communities of color that are leading the fight for equality, justice and democracy. We encourage all of our members and their families and friends to do whatever you can to help: speak up, demonstrate, donate, support black-owned businesses, especially those in our neighborhood, and work to elect candidates who will fight every day for an America where everyone can trust in equal justice under the law.

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