

## AFSCME Council 5 Mourns the Death of George Floyd

AFSCME Council 5 honors the life of George Floyd and extends our deepest condolences and solidarity to the family and loved ones of George Floyd.

“The killing of George Floyd was a shocking and heinous act of violence that demands accountability, transparency, and justice,” said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. “As a union that represents several thousand law enforcement officers and has long been in the vanguard of the struggle for civil rights, AFSCME believes we cannot be forced to choose between racial justice and effective policing. A free and healthy society can and must have both.”

“The murder of George Floyd is an absolute tragedy and should never have happened,” said Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl. “We must stand together with all of our neighbors and reject discrimination, hate, and prejudice in all its forms.”

This week, thousands of Minnesotans - including many AFSCME members - have marched to demand justice. We also learned that white supremacist groups across the nation are activating



George Floyd memorial in Minneapolis (photo courtesy MPR News).

to hide among peaceful protesters and create havoc in our communities.

Inclusion, equity, fairness, morality, and justice for all are values we must always fight for. People advocating otherwise have a clear goal of fomenting hate, violence, fear, and destruction.

In this time of international upheaval, we must not become divided or lose sight of our ultimate goal: justice.

We must protect each other and rebuild. Together, we will build an inclusive world and see the changes and reforms made that our communities need.

POCI Caucus intend to make police and criminal justice reform a top priority of the likely June special session and into the future.

### Legislative action under discussion includes:

- Reform the investigation and prosecution of officer-involved deaths and wrongful actions
- Increase police accountability and transparency
- Raise standards of conduct and support officer excellence
- Partner officers with the communities they serve
- Repair and build community trust and create community-centered public safety

You can find their full list of proposals at [www.house.leg.state.mn.us/caucus/home/DFL](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/caucus/home/DFL).

When a Special Session convenes, likely next week, AFSCME Council 5 members will continue to advocate for our legislative agenda to better the lives of working families and make our communities stronger. Please look for updates and other issues to be addressed in the upcoming Special Session.

### Governor Walz, MN Legislature to Debate Reforms

The Minnesota Legislature’s People of Color & Indigenous (POCI) Caucus outlined a series of proposals this week in response to the killing of George Floyd.

The members involved in the



AFSCME members join labor siblings to demand justice



- ① Wash your hands
- ② Get tested when sick
- ③ Stay 6 feet from others
- ④ Wear a mask
- ⑤ Stay home when able
- ⑥ Work from home when able

Remember: we're still fighting back against the COVID-19 pandemic. Keep preventing the spread of the virus!

The Countywide Bargaining Team has put together a survey to make sure that members' priorities are represented at the bargaining table. **Find the survey here:** <https://forms.gle/YZv4KbRcd8dK3FSr5>

Your answers are confidential, and no individual results will be shown to management or anyone.

Take some time to review your current contract and offer your feedback before the end of the day on Friday June 12th. Your current contract can be found at [afscmemn.org/county-contracts](http://afscmemn.org/county-contracts).

The survey only takes a few minutes. Don't delay! Make sure your voice is heard.

### Resources for Members

Stay up to date on all the latest news by following @afscmemn5 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Get guidance and resources at [afscmemn.org](http://afscmemn.org) under the COVID-19 tab.

Look for action alerts via email and text so you know when to take action to protect working families. We are all in this together, siblings!

But our union family didn't ignore these members just because they are no longer working. Coworkers started a fundraiser, requesting donations to cover basic expenses for these members and their families. We will continue the fight!

The fundraiser brought in \$6,000, enough to bridge the gap for many of these families to get back on their feet. We're so proud for our union family's generosity.

**The fundraiser is still ongoing - contribute now:**

[paypal.me/pools/c/8oPMk22Y0q](https://paypal.me/pools/c/8oPMk22Y0q)

### RSVP Now for Online AFSCME Mental Health Check Ins!

Over the past year, your union siblings have convened Mental Health Summits to advocate for higher standards, better services and working conditions for all those affected with mental health issues.

Members need a safe place to share their feelings as we advocate for a modernized mental healthcare system. Now - more than ever - **we not only need to continue the work we've started, but make sure we are all connected.** It is our goal to make sure mental healthcare services be prepared as they can during and after this crisis.

On our website under the Mental/Behavioral health tab you can sign up to join our weekly member-led mental health check ins **on Tuesdays at 9am!**

### Ramsey County: Take Our Bargaining Survey!

Ramsey County: your contract expires at the end of the year, and contract negotiations time is coming up soon.

## Support Our Communities

If you are able, please consider a financial contribution to one of these community-based organizations:

### George Floyd Memorial Fund

[www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd](http://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd)

### ISAIAH

[givemn.org/organization/Isaiah](http://givemn.org/organization/Isaiah)

### Minnesota Freedom Fund

[minnesotafreedomfund.org/donate](http://minnesotafreedomfund.org/donate)

### NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

[www.naacpldf.org](http://www.naacpldf.org)

### Minneapolis Food Shelves

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-185913](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/homegrown/WCMSP-185913)

### St Paul Food Shelves

[https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/mn-saint\\_paul](https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/mn-saint_paul)

### Hunger Solutions MN

[www.hungersolutions.org](http://www.hungersolutions.org)

### Second Harvest Heartland

[www.2harvest.org](http://www.2harvest.org)

### Support Small Businesses:

Lake Street: [welovelakestreet.com](http://welovelakestreet.com)

Northside Economic Opportunity Network: [neon-mn.org](http://neon-mn.org)

CANDO: [thecentralneighborhood.com](http://thecentralneighborhood.com)

We also encourage members to **sign a petition calling for #JusticeforGeorgeFloyd** here: [www.justiceforbigfloyd.com](http://www.justiceforbigfloyd.com)

## AFSCME Raises Funds for Laid Off Union Siblings

Last month, the City of Duluth laid off 51 AFSCME members during a global pandemic, citing budget concerns. Despite members' best efforts, these members were left without employment during one of the worst economic crises in a generation.