



CEO Statement
City First Stands with Peaceful Protesters
and Denounces Police Brutality
End systemic racism. Create systemic solutions.

June 8, 2020, Washington, DC — City First mourns and is deeply troubled by the senseless killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breanna Taylor, and far too many others before them. Our hearts go out to each of their families, their communities and our nation impacted by the tragic loss of their lives far too soon. As a Community Development Financial Institution founded to specifically counteract and eradicate economic inequities in our city, we stand squarely aligned with the work and values of people across the nation who believe in justice for all citizens, and especially to support those historically and systemically excluded and often most vulnerable.

Correcting the historic injustices against the African American community demands that we address the broader and systemic racism that still persists in our country today, racism that shows its face through critical inequities to unthinkable violence and indifference from positions of power. Practices and acts of race-based hate and fear have no place in America. We call for the full accountability of the police officers and citizens involved in these horrific incidents.

We fully support the fundamental American right of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly to protest endemic injustices and to demand that our governing authorities right these wrongs. We stand steadfast against symbols and acts of racially charged violence and injustice and look to build upon collaboration and solidarity across all communities. We join our communities in urging our national, state, and local government leaders to more directly address bigotry, discrimination, inequities and violence against African Americans through substantive, sustainable and meaningful solutions.

We are at a unique point in time with a unique opportunity for collective change. The ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cumulative effects of systemic racism has exposed for all to see in an undeniable way, that tremendous and painful inequities and lethal harm are inherent in our current systems. It is paramount we all seize this moment for real change and progress.

City First will continue our work with elected officials, civic partners, business and community leaders in Washington, DC to address systemic economic inequities that prevent access and opportunity to capital for the marginalized communities whom we serve. Our very Mission and Vision is rooted in the fervent belief that every individual, every family, and every community should have the opportunity and the access to capital and resources that will allow them to improve their well-being and prosper. It is with this belief that we are deeply committed and resolved, individually and collectively, to use these resources and our focus, now more than ever, as a tool for economic, racial and environmental justice in the Washington DC region and beyond.

We say their names and acknowledge our own humanity
George Floyd Ahmaud Arbery Breanna Taylor
Black Lives Matter

Brian E. Argrett, President & CEO



About City First:

Founded over twenty-five years ago in direct response to systemic disinvestment in our communities, City First has been an innovator and financial first responder for equitable economic development in Washington, DC. We have since invested over \$1.3 billion in local change agents with a vision to advance economic equity and social justice, impacting their families and communities today, and for generations to come.

We are proud to be part of the solution alongside a community of local leaders, a dedicated network of a CDFI's, B Corp's, and a Global Alliance of Banks whose values are aligned with sustainable frontline solutions, healthier families, more prosperous communities for our collective well-being. www.cityfirstbank.com | www.cfenterprises.org

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