

University of Minnesota Black Alumni Network

Date: June 1st , 2020



The Black Alumni Network of The University of Minnesota is grieving another unacceptable loss of life at the hands of a fatal and unjustifiable interaction with officers of the Minneapolis Police Department in a gross display of apathy and the lack of concern for human life. Our Black brothers and sisters are at risk every day for walking around in their skin, and we are tired. We know that something has to change and we demand Justice for our people.

In response to a powerful letter from current Undergraduate Student Body President, Jael Kerandi, President Gabel released a statement on behalf of the University of Minnesota announcing the cutting of some ties between the University and the Minneapolis Police Department. We support the Universities decision in making the first step in critical change by divesting from the Minneapolis Police Department. We ask that during this crucial time, the University continues to take a look internally and at its partnerships to:

- Create an environment where Black students are welcomed
- Uplift the legacy of Morrill Hall Takeover and embody the spirit of Diversity & Inclusion that is often spoken about
- Drive accountability for the University of Minnesota Police Department and their racially charged interactions with students, staff, and people from the surrounding community
- Deepen relationships and collaboration with Black-led community organizations (African American Leadership Forum, Urban League Twin Cities, Council of Minnesotans of African Heritage, and others)

It's painful to see the damage that has been done in our communities in South Minneapolis, North Minneapolis, St. Paul and other surrounding cities. The damage reflects the pain our community is feeling and has felt for over 400 years as an oppressed people around the world.

Our hope is that we collectively support the rebuilding of Our Communities. The physical spaces as well as the relationships among community members are in need of repair.

We encourage everyone in our community to get engaged with Legislation and Voting to be part of the much needed change we must see.

We encourage our Alumni of the University of Minnesota to invest time, energy, and resources in supporting and uplifting one another as well as the communities where we live and work.

The board of UMNBAN has decided to actively raise funds to contribute to the ongoing community response efforts of the local chapter of the National Pan Hellenic Council NPHC-MSP chartered on February 9, 2013. This organization is comprised of a group of 'Divine 9' Historically Black Greek Letter Organizations (Fraternities and Sororities) and their efforts are having a significant impact throughout the Twin Cities Community. Please make a contribution by visiting: <https://paypal.me/nphc> or [https://cash.app/\\$NPHCMSP](https://cash.app/$NPHCMSP)

We are here. We got you. We got each other.

Until Justice is Served,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adora Land'.

Adora Land
Presidential Co-Chair
Univ. of MN Black Alumni Network

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Comer III'.

Ernest Comer III
Presidential Co-Chair
Univ. of MN Black Alumni Network

UMNBAN 2020 Board Members:

Adora Land
Niyi Ayinde
Vincent Knox

Ernest Comer III
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