



ALPHA PHI ALPHA

Delta Chi Lambda Chapter

Where We Stand in These Challenging and Controversial Times

Milwaukee is not exempt! Police violence against Black Americans dates back to the slave patrols of the 1700s. The state-enabled assaults that have prematurely taken the lives of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Philando Castille, Alvin Cole, Jay Anderson, Antonio Gonzalez, Dontre Hamilton, Sylville Smith, Joel Acevedo and most recently Breonna Taylor and George Floyd are a symptom of institutionalized racism, which has plagued America's social, economic, and political systems since even before her founding.

The Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Chi Lambda Chapter, stand unequivocally opposed to all sources and forms of institutional racism, including police brutality. Since our fraternity's founding in 1906, Alphas have stood in the vanguard of the struggle, led by Brothers such as Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Dick Gregory, Dr. Cornel West and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We recognize that if institutional racism is to be defeated, we must take up the torch and do our part. Thus, we also forcefully affirm the peaceful protests occurring across the nation and abhor state-sponsored efforts to infringe upon the right to dissent as protected by the First Amendment. As one of our founders, Vertner Woodson Tandy so eloquently described this challenge, "We must fight till hell freezes over, then fight on ice."

To this end, we are presently organizing multiple short-term initiatives designed for immediate local impact. These include:

- Participating in Alderman Russel Stamper II's "#WeWork Clean Up Initiative" on June 6, 2020
- Providing supplies (water, masks, PPE, etc.) for citizens involved in protests
- Reaching out to local social justice organizations to assess their needs
- Increasing patronage, support and resources for Black-owned businesses
- Donating to appropriate social justice-oriented causes

In the long-term, we will refocus our efforts on affecting local and state policy. These include:

- Increasing voter registration with a focus on absentee voting in alignment with our "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" initiative
- Facilitating dialog between law enforcement and Milwaukee's Black community with the objective of an improved relationship
- Strategically collaborating with other organizations focused on a Black Agenda that includes law enforcement reform
- Lobbying for a Black Agenda that includes law enforcement reform at the State Capitol and City Hall

We stand in solidarity with the families who have lost loved ones to police brutality locally and across our nation. We seek justice for the victims of white supremacy. Our fight to correct the systemic inequities caused by institutional racism continues.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." More than ever, in 2020, it is time for us all to stand, uncomfortably.

Onward and upward,

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Delta Chi Lambda Chapter

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.