



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118 | Ffrichar@my.loyno.edu

STATEMENT ON RECENT EVENTS | JUNE 1, 2020

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was brutally murdered by the Minneapolis Police Department in Minnesota. **We stand in complete solidarity with the Black community at Loyola, in Minnesota, and across the nation in the fight for racial justice.**

The Loyola University New Orleans's Student Government Association stands with our Black Student Union, Lemon Pepper, L.O.V.E, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, United Brothers Association, as well as a coalition of black organizations on campus, in condemning these heinous acts of violence and injustice in which they took away yet another innocent life. From this point forward, we will use our platform to intentionally advocate for these causes and amplify black voices that are too often silenced. We commit to remedy our history of inaction from Loyola's Student Government Association, and we commit ourselves to fight for racial justice on our campus and beyond.

George Floyd's story represents a history of systemic racism within this country and is added to the list of countless deaths of black Americans like Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Ahmad Arbery, Breonna Taylor and more. There is a history of police brutality throughout the New Orleans community as well, most recently with the story of Modesto Reyes.

On May 27, 2020, Modesto Reyes was shot seven times and killed by a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Deputy after being tasered and hand-cuffed. Reports allege that law enforcement mistook his cellphone for a gun. This fatal shooting aligns with the countless studies which have shown that black people have been disproportionately targeted by law-enforcement agencies compared to their white counterparts. We feel it is necessary to bring light to this issue that is pervasive not only in Minnesota but also in our own backyard.

We know that many of you, especially those in the black community, are tired of reading statements that are not followed with swift and meaningful action. This is why we want to be completely transparent and put forth policies that reflect the sentiments expressed here today. We, as Loyola's Student Government Association, will immediately begin working on:

1. Improving existing communication channels between Student Government and traditionally black organizations and activities on campus, not just in this time, but in the future as well;
2. Hold regular meetings with LUPD to ensure that adequate policies and training practices are in place or adopted to advance the dignity of all students on campus;
3. Lobby our Student Government Senate to approve my proposed funding increases for our social justice grant & programming, and stipend for our newest cabinet position- the Director of Equity and Inclusion;
4. Facilitate semesterly implicit bias training for members of the Student Government Association, and have them made available to student organizations. Additionally, we'll be critically reconstructing the guidelines of the Allocation Appeals Process to reassure that the student organizations of color are fairly and justifiably receiving funds for campus events.

Student Government has also compiled [a list of resources](#) to use as a guide in light of these incidents. This list includes resources for advocacy, education, and mental health support. We extend our gratitude towards black activists and allies who continue to share these resources for re-education.

We will not stop producing policy and calling on leadership to do the same until the LOYNO experience is not negatively tainted by systems of injustice. Our administration is committed to doing the work that will provide for a better, more equitable reality on campus, and we ask that you hold us accountable in our endeavors. We'll also call on other student organizations, sororities, and fraternities to be allies in this time, and ask that they take actions to support black students both inside and outside of their organizations, whether that be by donating to organizations such as [Reclaim the Block](#), checking in with black members of your organization, and or educating your members about allyship and anti-racism.

Rest in Power, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and so many countless others.

With love and solidarity,

Freedom Fox Richardson, **Student Government Association President.**

Zontre City, **Student Government Association Vice President & Dir. Operations for Lemon Pepper**

Olivia Dadoun, **Student Government Association Chief of Staff**

Gordon Towell, **Student Government Association Chief Justice**

Sofia Rabassa, **Student Government Association Director of Communication**

Cheyenne Williams, **Student Government Association Director of Equity and Inclusion**

Alejandra Bedoya, **Student Government Association Director of Finance**

Deon Wilson, **Student Government Association Director of Programming**

Brionna Adams, **Black Student Union President**

Crystal Thomas, **L.O.V.E President**

Angelyss Vasquez, **Multicultural Leadership Council President**

Praise Tillman, **National Pan-Hellenic Council President**

Darell Honora Jr., **United Brothers Association President**