



Statement by San Diego City Attorney Mara W. Elliott on Racial Injustice and the Murder of George Floyd

As San Diego City Attorney, I lead an Office that is dedicated to protecting the communities we serve, and to ensuring that any person who encounters our criminal justice system is treated with dignity, respect, and fairness.

I believe that earning and keeping the public's trust is paramount. Trust between the community and law enforcement cannot exist when laws are not enforced equally, and when racism goes unaddressed and unpunished.

The outrage over George Floyd's murder is right. My heart breaks for his family and those who loved him, and for every American whose fears for their own family members were realized in his coldblooded killing by police officers. His death is a painful reminder that our country's relationship with race is deeply fractured, and that some still behave as if black lives do not matter.

My Office and I stand united against discrimination and inequity in our criminal justice system. We believe the people's right to peaceful protest is essential to our democracy. And we believe that law enforcement's duty is not only to keep the peace, but also to ensure the voices of all communities are heard, respected, and protected.

I'm hopeful that all who speak out against the murder of Mr. Floyd, and the senseless deaths of so many others, can spur action. We've already seen evidence of this in the arrest of the police officers complicit in this heinous murder, in the removal of statues that are symbols of hatred and division, and in long-needed reforms to police practices.

More must be done. We all must join in the struggle to eradicate the legacy of racism in America, and to make changes to root out any bias in our institutions.

My Office hears you, we see you, and we are committed to working alongside you against injustice in our community.

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