



GRAND EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

May 31, 2020

GREETINGS Brothers, Daughters, and Elk Family:

This is Attorney Leonard J. Polk Jr, Grand Exalted Ruler with an important message.

“The tragic and senseless death of George Floyd while handcuffed and in the custody of the police, is outrageous and unconscionable. Once again, we are faced with unspeakable tragedy and are trying to understand how another unarmed African American is dead, dying tragically during what is considered a routine police traffic stop or routine police custody matter. Despite the small progress we've made in terms of gaining equality for all Americans, police brutality, especially against the Black community, continues unabated with little or no consequence for the perpetrators in sight.

Our African-American community and our Elk family are united in our belief that it is way past the time to right this horrible injustice. The anger and civil disobedience spreading across our country is generated by decades of systemic racial injustice. Sadly, all Americans from every race must ask themselves, when is enough, enough? And, what can I do to prevent and eliminate these injustices?

As parents, we feel angry that we have to constantly remind our sons, daughters, nephews, and grandchildren to be careful when they leave the house and avoid all interaction with the Police. In the best interest of our Country, we must act now to eliminate injustice for the future of our children and the generations that follow. We call on all Americans, particularly our white brothers and sisters to join us, speak up, and get involved with addressing and resolving this on-going tragic injustice.

Specifically, to Our Elk family, friends, and communities, here are some of the ways we can do our part to reduce and help prevent these tragic acts against African Americans;

1) **We can host a community town hall and invite local leaders and law enforcement to come in and discuss the issue.**

2) **We can also organize a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of those lives lost.**



3) **As previously discussed, we need our local Lodges and Temples to take the lead role in our communities to educate and assist in the voting process as part of permanently ending this injustice.**

Further, our Elk family will not rest until systematic racism in our communities is addressed by the individuals we've elected to serve us. Let us protest peacefully, but most of all, vote in November 2020."

God Bless you and God Bless the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World.

**Attorney Leonard J. Polk Jr.
Grand Exalted Ruler
Grand Patriarch**