

June 27, 2020

Dear Community:

In light of the recent, numerous, and highly publicized instances of police violence toward the Black community and within the current context of a pandemic that has intensified the impact of systemic racial discrimination, we, at SIROW, stand in solidarity with Black people everywhere and believe that all Black Lives Matter. We remain steadfast in our dedication to our mission to strive to achieve a more just and equitable society through collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups including Black people who have faced centuries of systemic oppression. Though not enough, we are hopeful that our continued commitment will help to create long overdue change that helps Black people feel safe and to live happy, healthier lives in a more equitable society. We acknowledge the emotional labor required to attack injustice, particularly for those most severely impacted. We vow to use our frustration, anger, sadness, desperation, and hope for positive change to fuel daily activities to address social inequalities and group-based disparities. We encourage others who have the capacity to do the same. Finally, to those of you who are also fighting for change, to those hurting, and especially to the Black community: We stand with you.

Sincerely,

SIROW Steering Committee

