

June 4, 2020

Dear Resident,

Over the past few months, Carolina Housing has sent many emails about an “unprecedented” situation. Today, I am angered and saddened to write about a series of violent and senseless acts that are not unprecedented, in fact, they are all too common.

Like many of you, I have been watching national events unfold over the last few weeks with the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. I’ve also seen a white woman in New York City, when asked to adhere to the law, call 911 on Christian Cooper knowing full well the danger that could result. In the wake of these and other incidents, I’ve also seen countless peaceful protesters attacked in attempts to silence them.

Carolina Housing stands in solidarity with all the other campus voices, including and especially our [Residence Hall Association](#), in condemning these unconscionable acts of violence and hate. Black Lives Matter.

The impact these assaults have on our campus are profoundly and uniquely felt by our current and future residential students and staff as they consider their safety in our residence halls. I am writing today to acknowledge the impact of this climate, to commit to full consideration of substantive ways we need to change, and to remind you that we are here to provide support and resources.

Carolina Housing remains committed to fostering inclusive, supportive and secure living environments in an effort to encourage a sense of belonging in our communities and recognize that racist acts challenge this sense of belonging. It is the responsibility of us all to help build safer, kinder, and more welcoming spaces. In pursuit of these ends, we are already considering changes to staff training, resident programming, and various operational protocols.

As this situation has unfolded, we have had three simultaneous priorities: caring for the Black students and staff currently on campus, considering the substantive ways we need to change, and creating public facing statements that express our outrage and commitment to supporting students and staff. I regret our slower response in releasing this and other statements. I hear you in your calls for us to do better and we will work every day to do just that.

We know that the current environment may be personally challenging for many of you. In spite of the physical distance that currently exists between us, we still want to be a support and resource for you. In addition to the resources found at the end of this message, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us, especially our returning residents who have relationships with members of our staff team.

In closing, all of us must do our part to seek social justice and Carolina Housing commits to continuing to lead in this effort. We hope you will join us as we work to create lasting and systemic change and a community of care in our residence halls.

Sincerely,

Allan Blattner
Executive Director

Resources and Information

List of Resources and Information (Thank you to the UNC Executive Branch, Campus Y, and Black Congress for putting together this list of resources):

tinyurl.com/blmforever

Counseling and Psychological Services

<https://caps.unc.edu/>

Student Wellness

<https://studentwellness.unc.edu/>

Office for Diversity and Inclusion

<https://diversity.unc.edu/yourvoicematters/>

To report incidents of harassment:

<https://safe.unc.edu>