

## **Flint Islamic Center**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

The protests that are occurring all across the nation, including right here in Flint, are a reflection of the justified frustration and outrage over the systematic and institutionalized injustice faced on a daily basis by our black brothers and sisters, as exemplified by the senseless murder of George Floyd by police.

God states in the Qur'an: "Oh you who believe, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for God, even if it be against yourself or parents and relatives." The word "justice" appears in the Quran 24 times in 22 verses. God has said: "Oh my servants, I have forbidden injustice for Myself and forbade it also for you. So avoid being unjust to one another."

Our faith tradition teaches us not only to refrain from being unjust to one another, but to also stand firm against injustice. We are listening, and we cannot remain silent. There are some who seek to discredit the legitimate public protest by vandalizing and creating chaos. To this we say, we support the efforts of so many peaceful protesters across this nation who have actively prevented individuals from causing property damage, and we will not be distracted by the false equivalence between the unlawful taking of human life and the damage to private property. There can be no material comparison to the value of human life.

Yes, we will pray, for George Floyd, for his family, for our country to be better than this, and we also call for local and state leaders to respond without militarization – to listen and try to understand – as we have seen a first step taken by our own Genesee County Sheriff. The information and images we have remind us that there is much more work to be done to achieve racial equality in our nation, and we as Muslims stand ready to help towards that. For now, it is important to support black and brown communities and leaders spearheading the peaceful actions towards change. Together, we will honor the memory of George Floyd.

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The Flint Islamic Center (FIC) is an institution established for the purpose of

providing religious, educational and humanitarian services to its members, to the Muslim community in the Flint area and to advance the cause of Muslims in accordance to the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). The FIC works to promote peace, justice, harmony and understanding among our community and the communities around us.