



South Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Issues Statement Pledging United Support and Continued Commitment to Civil Rights in South Carolina After Police Killings

June 26, 2020

Whereas: The deaths of Mr. George Floyd, Ms. Breonna Taylor, Mr. Ahmaud Arbery, and others—including South Carolina’s own Mr. Walter Scott—have shocked the nation and the citizens of South Carolina;

Whereas: one cannot deny or fully comprehend the terrible history or extreme cost to our state as a result of the effects of generational racism, systemic racism, racial hatred, unwarranted police violence, and the systematic disenfranchisement and violation of the civil rights of members of our community, particularly those of color presently and through our state’s history;

Whereas: the mission of the South Carolina State Advisory Committee is to assist the United States Commission on Civil Rights with its fact-finding, investigative, and dissemination functions here in the State of South Carolina;

Whereas: because the outpouring of grief and anger – expressed by so many in South Carolina, the United States, and the world – has been seen, recognized, and deeply touched the hearts and the consciousnesses of all of the members of this committee;

Therefore, We, the members of the South Carolina Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, reaffirm and state our united support and continued commitment to investigate the deprivation of the civil rights of all South Carolinians regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin and restate our dedication to the ideal of equal justice for all.

To that end, we commit ourselves and our committee to work with all lawmakers, government officials, community organizations, law enforcement, South Carolina’s justice system and most importantly, our citizens to further our state’s commitment to the U.S. Constitution and the Amendments thereto, the South Carolina Constitution, and the vital concepts of the rule of law, due process and justice for all.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights.