

COUNCIL of NEW JERSEY STATE COLLEGE LOCALS AFT/AFL-CIO



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Black Lives Matter

After being detained and handcuffed by police on a non-violent charge, one policeman ground his knee into the back of George Floyd's neck and held it there for more than eight minutes while three other officers stood watching.

George Floyd repeatedly cried out "I can't breathe, I can't breathe" which fell on uncaring ears as he lost consciousness and died shortly afterwards at a local hospital. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Stephon Clark, Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, Walter Scott, Tamir Rice... for every name on the growing list we know that there have been thousands of others who have been murdered and brutalized out of sight of cameras.

Once again, family members and friends now grieve the bitter, brutal murder of a loved one. Protesters have taken to the streets worldwide.

The members of the Council of New Jersey State College Locals are heartbroken and appalled. We remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who said, "*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*" We have a moral responsibility to the people and community we serve. Let us be good Samaritans.

Black Lives Matter and we must unequivocally affirm that George Floyd's life mattered. The AFT Union stands with our African American brothers and sisters and all people of color and we say "no more." We stand for justice and call for change. We will fight for justice and peace in our homes, on our streets, in our classrooms and in our communities. We can and we will change lives for the better. We must never give up and we must always remember to support and love one another throughout this difficult struggle.

Black Lives Matter. Racism is evil. Period.

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