

UNITEHERE!

Midwest Joint Board

Local 24/57

ACTIONS/CAMPAIGNS

UNITEHERE!'s Black Leadership Group Releases Statement:

Black leaders from across our union released this powerful statement. "We are organizers. We are elected officers. We are workers. We are community leaders and neighbors. We are parents, children, siblings, and kin. We are your Union family. And we cannot breathe," the statement reads, concluding: "We fight for the right to keep breathing. We carry forward a long and proud tradition of black union leaders organizing for Black freedom. And we will do so until our very last breaths. Today we call upon you to stand with us. To join us in the fight for our lives — just as we will always stand with you and fight for yours." Please take a moment to read this statement in its entirety and share it with fellow staff, leaders and members.

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/2Z3XkpH>

AMERICA'S

FIVE ECONOMIC ESSENTIALS AND THE FIGHT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

June 3rd was our Workers First Caravan to DC, but with the nation responding to the murder of George Floyd, we changed gears to engage directly with the calls for racial justice. On Wednesday, Local 23 diverted hundreds of members to caravan in support of Black Lives Matter.

Meanwhile, President Taylor and General Vice President Nia Winston joined labor leaders on a national press conference addressing racial injustice and police brutality. Winston called on the labor movement to double down on its commitment to Black lives by joining the current protests and pushing for Congress to adopt the five essentials. While all working families will benefit from this platform, here's what's at stake for Black lives in the five essentials:

- 1. Keep America healthy—protect and expand health insurance for all workers.**
 - ▶ While African Americans make up just 13 percent of the population, they account for 34 percent of COVID-19 cases, and more likely than white people to die from the virus.
 - ▶ Black people of all ages have persistently lower health insurance coverage rates (by 60%) and are more likely to lose insurance they already have.
 - ▶ Black women have been twice as likely to lose their jobs or income as white men.
- 2. Keep front-line workers safe and secure.**
 - ▶ Front-line workers (grocery, transportation, trucking, warehousing, healthcare) are disproportionately black workers and women of color.
 - ▶ Nearly a quarter of Black Americans work in the service industry, and 16 percent work in transportation, production or delivery.
- 3. Keep workers employed and protect earned pension checks.**
 - ▶ Unemployment rate for Black people in the U.S. is almost twice as high as for white people.
 - ▶ Less than half of Black adults now have a job. Black workers need a union because otherwise Black workers are "first fired, last hired."
 - ▶ After losing his job as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, George Floyd was accused of using a \$20 forged bill at a convenience store
- 4. Keep public schools and public services going.**
 - ▶ Attacks on state and local government, the postal service, and our public schools are another attack on Black people. Black women make up 17.7 percent of public-sector workers, or about 1.5 million workers in 2018, the highest share of workers in the public sector.
 - ▶ Black workers are overrepresented in retired public sector employees. Defaulting on pensions would devastate later-life security for these workers.
- 5. Hire people to build infrastructure.**
 - ▶ Full employment for black people requires massive investment in public infrastructure spending.
 - ▶ Transportation and green infrastructure produce a significant share of jobs for black people.

CONNECTIONS

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