



YWCA of Olympia Police Shooting Charging Statement

As an organization that is part of a national network committed to eliminating racism, the YWCA of Olympia is taking steps to support communities of color as the investigations related to the shootings of Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin conclude. We believe it is necessary to support communities of color because people of color, and specifically Black individuals and families, often process and experience these events much differently than white people.

Racial disproportionality in law enforcement and the criminal justice system is well documented. The topic is now commonplace in mainstream media and communities across the country. According to the ACLU, 1 out of every 3 black men can expect to be incarcerated in his lifetime versus 1 in 17 white men. The rates of pedestrian and traffic stops as well as police use of deadly force is significantly higher for black and brown men than white men, and women of color also experience higher rates of these incidents than white women.

Racial bias, both implicit and explicit, is a factor in these disparities, as well as the daily lived experiences of communities of color. While the recent events in our community have opened up a dialogue about how racism and oppression is prevalent, even here in Olympia, meaningful change will not occur if the voices and experiences of people of color are marginalized.

During this difficult and critical time, the YWCA of Olympia's priority is to support people of color and elevate their voice. To accomplish this, the YWCA will provide a safe space for people of color to gather as well as programming, events and a platform for community dialogue. We encourage our larger community to listen, participate and stay engaged. We invite other organizations, stakeholders and community members to join us in taking a #StandAgainstRacism and commit to creating a community where all people are valued, live free from oppression and have the opportunity to thrive.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved, please contact Lanessa Inman at Linman@ywcaofolympia.org (360) 352-0593

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