

Statement from the Broadening Inclusion Group

The Broadening Inclusion Group of the Farmers' Market Advisory Council acknowledges the urgent need to voice our sadness, frustration, anger, and disappointment in our country's response to the senseless deaths of black men, black women, and black children.

Our hearts break for the families of George Floyd, Tamir Rice, and Eric Garner – their lives matter. Our hearts break for the families of all of the other unarmed black men and black women whose lives have been taken by police officers – their lives matter. Our hearts break for the black families and dozens of black men, black women, and black children who are shot and killed in Chicago, New York, and other cities every weekend in America – their lives matter. Our hearts break for the black police officers whose lives were lost in the unrest – their lives matter. Our hearts break for every lost, angry, and aimless young black man and woman who commit violent crimes and claim the lives of other black men, black women, and black children – their lives matter. Last, but not least, our hearts break for all the black-owned businesses and black livelihoods that have been destroyed by senseless violence – their lives matter. All black lives do matter and our hearts are in pieces.

As the Farmers' Market continues its re-opening, we reaffirm that there is absolutely no room in the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market for discrimination, harassment, or violence based on anyone's actual or perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and/or national origin. We affirm that diversity is one of our core values along with equity and inclusivity and the importance of our efforts to continue working toward supporting the diversity of our vendors and patrons. We recognize that our community demands and deserves an environment where everyone feels safe, supported, and respected, and we continually recommit to working toward making this a reality.

We stand in support of the statement made by the Farmers Market Coalition of which the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market is a member.