



CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

DEKALB COUNTY COURTHOUSE
556 NORTH McDONOUGH STREET
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30030

DEBRA DEBERRY
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

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June 4, 2020

Dear DeKalb:

As a citizen, as a mother of a Black man in law enforcement, and Clerk of Superior Court, I stand with all those in Atlanta and across this country who demonstrate outrage against the institutionalized violence that took the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and too many others.

I know firsthand, as many of you, what it feels like to be marginalized, profiled, to be humiliated, to be discriminated against. To feel the pain repeatedly without justice. One of my deep fears is the dangers my law enforcement son faces daily. But my greatest fear is for my son being a Black man in America!

While we are saddened by the devastation we have witnessed in recent days, we understand the pain and frustration behind the protests as it is a painful reminder of the generations of systemic racism and is a call to action.

As we continue protesting, what else can we do, must we do?

As many of you, like me, were raised to stand up for equality and justice, we taught our children to do the same. Now we find ourselves having to change that dialogue so our sons and daughters return home alive. That now, speaking up for ourselves is a potential death sentence.

What we are facing in these times are not unprecedented. Navigating a health crisis and racism is routine for Black people. What is frustrating for me and many of you is that we seem to be in a state of stasis on these issues. That is why I will continue to raise awareness and I remain committed to uphold justice, fairness and equity for the constituents I serve, our community and my staff.

For the Office of Superior Court Clerk and staff, our commitment is strong, we remain respectful of each citizen that walks through our doors and to each other. We will continue to participate in our community, uplifting the human spirit.

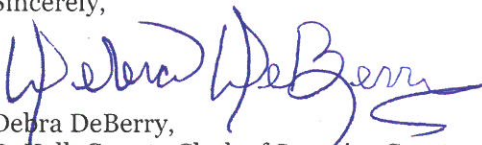
Our Office's employee committee, Team Solutions, plays an important role that continues to provide active sensitivity awareness through understanding the diversity we have in our workplace. We shall continue to work with organizations that empower our young to be part of the solution, fight injustice, further education that works toward a meaningful positive change. For hope. I invite you to join us. Some of those organizations are right here in DeKalb County. The NAACP, Black Man Lab, Let Us Make Man, NCNW to name a few.

We can use our voices by exercising our right to vote now and in November.

In the days ahead I pledge to work even harder, to listen more attentively to the voices of my staff and the citizens we serve. We as an Office will remain intentional in our service, operating with empathy, concern and excellence.

Our only option is to come together as one, to respect each other, where all lives are valued. One thing I believe for sure is that all of us want what our Declaration of Independence promises, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Sincerely,



Debra DeBerry,
DeKalb County Clerk of Superior Court