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A SOULFUL HEART MEMORIALIZING GEORGE FLOYD, JR.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

January 16, 2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS STATEMENT

Brooklyn, NY – Members of the Board of Directors of *A Soulful Heart Memorializing George Floyd, Jr.*, including co-founder Selwyn Jones, George Floyd's uncle, would like to add our voice in commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today, we likewise celebrate the example he led and the vision of America he shared during his lifetime, a time of an openly divisive and racially embroiled country.

Dr. King, a Nobel Peace Laureate at the young age of 35, made many people uncomfortable by peacefully relaying truths that – once spoken with such grace and commanding presence – had to be heard and could no longer be ignored. He peacefully challenged a society that unquestioningly embraced a lesser status quo for Black people. He gave voice to those who had been silenced for generations, who had been relegated to live without the protections taken for granted by those for whom race was never an issue. He spoke of truth, peace, respect, and love for all people.

As Dr. King so eloquently said in 1961:

“I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one, with no thought of their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians, or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we shall bring into full realization the dream of American democracy, a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed. A dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.”

Sixty-one years later, America has yet to realize Dr. King's vision for America, but the conviction of his beliefs continues to be an inspiration. At a time when hate crimes are on the rise and open racism is being nurtured on a diet of inflammatory rhetoric and injustice, it is all the more important to never forget Dr. King and his compassionate wisdom; and to continue to fight for equality as he did, as reflected in a life of unwavering commitment and dedication to making America a better country in which to live.