



A Proclamation in Response to Recent Protests and Police Brutality

From The South Florida Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence: House of the Rising Sun

We the South Florida Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence do publicly and sincerely affirm the following:

1. First and foremost, **Black Lives Matter**. We recognize the value of all human life, however due to the consistent and systemic racism in this country directed at black and brown people; it bears repeating: **Black Lives Matter**.
2. We encourage LGBTQ+ people of all races to remember our shared history of persecution and that it has not ended; it simply moved to more vulnerable targets.
3. Stonewall was a riot against police brutality.
4. The act of protesting is not a crime. Protest of injustice is not only necessary, but righteous.
5. Black and brown people are foundational contributors to our shared LGBTQ+ culture. Furthermore, much of what we have gained by way of civil rights as a community in the United States is due to the efforts of people of color. Several of our most senior members are old enough to remember that it was Marsha P. Johnson, a black trans woman, who initiated the Stonewall riot and began the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement. For more information see the following:
<https://www.biography.com/activist/marsha-p-johnson>
6. White Supremacy is not only a disease, but a public health crisis and until our public institutions and society as a whole address their inherent inequalities, white supremacy will continue to claim the lives of countless people.
7. We denounce any governmental or law enforcement agency that perpetuates and encourages white supremacy.
8. The purpose of a domestic police force is to promote the peace and safety of all citizens, not to oppress or murder them.
9. We advocate for the measures recommended by the Police Use of Force Project (<http://useofforceproject.org>). The project carefully catalogues 100 of the largest police

department's policies and reviews their data on shootings to correlate what works and what doesn't. The study is full of fun facts, "For example, body cams[sic] don't reduce police violence" (See <https://twitter.com/samswey/status/1180655701271732224>)

Our members will continue to support, collaborate with and defend all persons working to address the systematic inequalities in our public institutions and law enforcement. We urge and encourage the public to do everything they can to support the protestors and **to vote in November no matter what it takes and to vote for racial justice.**

Please, donate to any of the following organizations who are working hard to aid and support the cause:

- **Black Lives Matter:** They are critical in maintaining the pressure for real change and resisting systemic persecution.
https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019
- **Grass Roots Law Project:** They have volunteers in our area working hard to coordinate and push for the demilitarization of our police. Even if you cannot donate, please sign up to volunteer.
<https://www.grassrootslaw.org/>
- **The NAACP** continues to drive and act to protect and expand civil rights. They are holding town halls and working hard to organize.
<https://www.naacp.org/>

If you would like to financially contribute to real activism happening in our area, the following list is listing bail out funds for protestors nationwide and includes funds in our territory of South Florida.

<https://www.autostraddle.com/43-bail-funds-you-can-absolutely-support-right-now/>

If you are aware of a bail-out fund serving the South Florida area, please contact the **South Florida Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence** so that we may make that information available to the public on our website and social media.

If you are an organization local to Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Naples, and Palm Beach areas, including law firms working pro bono to support protestors, and are actively working on or with the protests, please contact us directly so we may collaborate with you and support your efforts. We can be contacted by direct message on our Facebook page or by emailing info@southfloridasisters.org or contacting us via any of our social media pages.

If you are a protester or know a protestor and need assistance, please reach out also so we can work to help connect you to the resources you need.

The following people have offered pro bono representation to protestors in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale (We will update this list as we find more):

<https://twitter.com/nwblackmon/status/1266883497450524675>