

Dear Kid Zone Community,

Kid Zone is deeply saddened by the tragic killing of Daunte Wright in our local community. This loss weighs heavy and is a grave reminder that racial injustice and inequality continue to plague our community and our nation. We continue to fully support the calls to end police brutality and respect the lives of black people and all other minorities.

In addition to the heartbreaking death in our community, we feel it is important to acknowledge the rise of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Kid Zone and its Board of Directors stand against the hateful rhetoric, racism, and physical harm experienced throughout the AAPI community.

Our goal at Kid Zone is to create a community that welcomes and celebrates ALL individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, beliefs, or sexual orientation. We acknowledge that we still have work to do, and this work will never truly be finished. Kid Zone is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community – children, parents, and staff – feel safe, respected, and equitably treated.

Last year we began our work with Minneapolis-based diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) consultants Todd and Anna Williams. In our time together, Todd and Anna have helped the Kid Zone community to better understand the lived experiences of racial minorities. We now look forward to their guidance in further incorporating DEI curriculum into the classrooms and providing resources for families to continue teachings at home. Our goal is to foster the next generation of kind, compassionate and thoughtful individuals who will continue to bring our world to a better place.

We are also exploring how we can support local efforts to increase racial justice and equality in the Twin Cities and beyond. We welcome any ideas you may have for how the Kid Zone community can make a difference.

This year has been unprecedented in many ways and filled with far too many tragedies. We know there

are many heavy hearts within our community. Kid Zone will continue to support, learn, and grow to meet the needs of our community. We are stronger together, and together we will do our part to bring change and growth.

Thank you,

Kid Zone Board of Directors