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Greater Indianapolis NAACP Issues Statement on Local Protests that Have Turned Violent

INDIANAPOLIS — May 30, 2020 — In response to recent events in the Indianapolis community, Chrystal Ratcliffe, president of the Greater Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP, issued the following statement:

"The Greater Indianapolis Branch of the NAACP, like the entire nation, is in shock following the senseless death of Mr. George Floyd due to the actions of the four Minneapolis police officers. We share the Minneapolis community's wishes to hold these officers accountable for their actions.

"However, some of the actions that occurred Friday night in Indianapolis to show solidarity with the Minneapolis community were disheartening. When a peaceful protest descends into a chaotic situation, where certain individuals were determined to damage property, it runs counter to the principles we all hold dear. Violence and vandalism are no way to express or show your support. Our branch disavows and condemns this behavior. This type of behavior does nothing to bring light to inequities in any community. We expect those responsible for this destruction of property to be held to account fully for their actions. The purpose of any peaceful assembly is to bring light to the issue and show respect to the victimized. Damaging property does not serve this purpose.

"We must keep our focus on the injustices that the black community lives with every day -- lack of access to quality health care and education, a justice system stacked against black men and women, and lack of economic opportunity. We must rally, along with white America and other people of color, to demand that these injustices be fixed. We must create systems that no longer place one class or race of people above another.

"Again, we encourage our community to engage in peaceful assemblies of protest and respect the wishes of the Floyd family, being ever mindful in these unprecedented times to maintain social distancing and prevent further spread of the COVID virus that has already harmed so many in our community."

About NAACP: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.