June 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

On Sunday, I stood with my daughter near Goodwill’s headquarters holding a sign as three hearses drove slowly by. Each had a name emblazoned on the back: Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor. The funeral cortege was part of the Boston Black Memorial held at Bethel AME Church. Being there was sobering and heartrending.

Together, we must bear witness to these senseless and violent killings and stand in solidarity with our Black colleagues and neighbors. These deaths – and so many others – are evidence of longstanding, systemic racism in America.

Racism is insidious. People who are Black or Brown are more likely to be poor. More likely to be unemployed. More likely to be underpaid. And, more likely to contract and die from COVID-19.

At Goodwill, we are committed to helping people find jobs that are right for them. Earn good wages and benefits. Advance to the next level. We do this for everyone who comes through our doors. Most are from communities of color.

We intend to redouble our efforts. To work to make more opportunities available to individuals who are Black and Brown. To evaluate our own operations through the lens of race and determine what more we can do to support our colleagues, participants, and community.

Goodwill has been serving the local community for 125 years and has a deep and abiding commitment to social justice. As we work together with individuals and local organizations to address the debilitating effects of the combination of COVID-19 and unemployment, we will keep the need to address the underlying issue of racism at the forefront of our efforts. We are committed to the ongoing, honest dialog and the concerted action that will be required.

Sincerely,

Joanne