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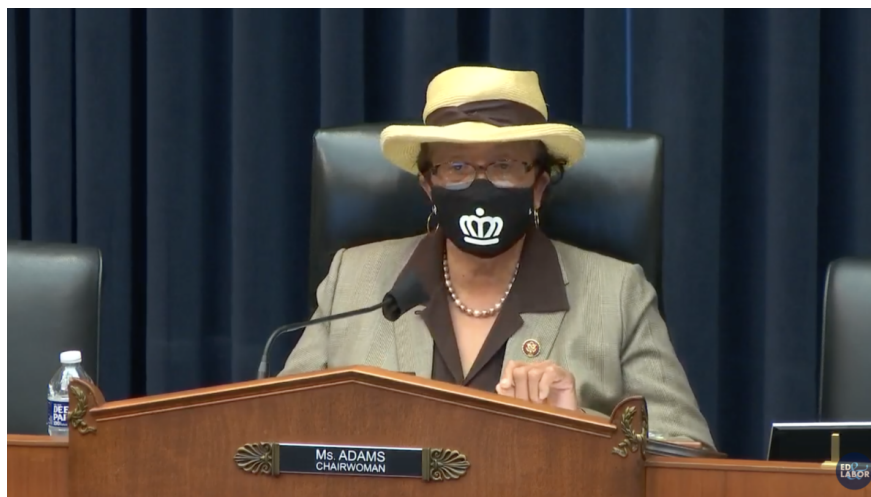
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Adams Releases Video Statement on State of Emergency Order

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2020 4:47 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

Adams Releases Video Statement on State of Emergency in Charlotte

"In this moment, we must be the spark that ignites justice, but we cannot light a fire so hot that it consumes us as well," says Adams

Charlotte – Today, **Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (NC-12)** released a video statement on the declaration of a State of Emergency in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

[You can watch the entire video on Facebook here.](#)

[Raw video of the statement is available here.](#)

"For the second time in four years, the City of Charlotte finds itself under a state of emergency," **said Congresswoman Adams via video.** "The reason we are here is because of modern-day lynchings – the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and others – and the failure of individuals within police departments across the country to value Black lives."

The Congresswoman added, "In this moment, we must be the spark that ignites justice, but we cannot light a fire so hot that it consumes us as well.

Let's use our collective anger to sing together as a choir for justice. Let us take our rage and dismantle these systems of oppression legislatively, not violently."

[In 2016, Rep. Adams authored an op-ed after marching in the protests over the killing of Keith Lamont Scott - you can access that editorial here.](#)

Congresswoman Adams' full video statement as prepared for delivery is below:

Hello, I'm Congresswoman Alma Adams.

For the second time in four years, the City of Charlotte finds itself under a state of emergency.

The reason we are here is because of modern-day lynchings – the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and others – and the failure of individuals within police departments across the country to value Black lives.

Let me be clear: my heart broke over these images. I am mad as hell, and any person of conscience should be as well. As James Baldwin once said,

*“To be Black in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in a **rage** almost all the time.”*

I'm not going to take that from you. Your rage is justified because it is in the pursuit of justice.

However, this time is different in many important ways. COVID-19 continues to threaten the lives and well-being of our neighbors, and seniors, communities of color, and those who have health risks or have underlying conditions are doubly threatened.

Additionally, we have heard reports from across the country and in Charlotte that outside organizers are turning protests violent with disregard for historically Black neighborhoods and minority businessowners.

I want to voice my support for the Mayor for taking actions to keep us safe, and to the Governor for suspending evictions so that our most vulnerable are not further threatened at this time.

In this moment, we must be the spark that ignites justice, but we cannot light a fire so hot that it consumes us as well.

Let's use our collective anger to sing together as a choir for justice. Let us take our rage and dismantle these systems of oppression legislatively, not violently.

Please, be safe out there, make sure your actions lift up our Black community and other communities of color, and know that your Congresswoman, Alma Adams, has your back.

Thank you, and God Bless You.

Congresswoman Alma Adams represents North Carolina's 12th Congressional District (Charlotte) and serves as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. Additionally, she serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Education & Labor Committee, where she serves as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee.

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