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Our country is in pain

Cynthia Wallace [info@cynthiawallaceforcongress.com]

Sent: Monday, June 01, 2020 7:45 PM

To: Steve Johnston



Steve,

My heart is heavy. Our country is in pain triggered by the picture and video of George Floyd lying on the concrete with a police officer's knee on his neck. It is gut-wrenching to see some of Mr. Floyd's last moments trying to tell the police officers that he couldn't breathe.

The protests that have turned violent over the last few nights brought back memories of April 29, 1992, when a jury trial acquitted 4 officers for the usage of excessive force in the arrest and beating of Rodney King after the country had seen the video of the beating. As a college student at Spelman College in 1992, I witnessed Atlanta erupt in anger and despair at this miscarriage of justice. And those same fears of injustice are prevalent in communities across our country including here in North Carolina.

28 years later, we're asking some of the same questions. Will justice be served in the rightful place - a court of law and not the streets during a police arrest? How can we work together to ensure we have meaningful and lasting change?

We must work through these injustices peacefully even if it is difficult for some. We must address the systemic problems of policing and our residents. We must make changes so that people of all races can feel safe while more names (Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery) are added to our country's list of lives lost.

Finally, we must vote for leaders who will address these issues with empathy and compassion.

- Cynthia

Paid for by Cynthia Wallace for Congress

Cynthia Wallace for Congress
PO Box 79096
Charlotte, NC 28271
United States

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