

Dear ULI New York Members & Friends:

The senseless and heartbreaking killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis has served as a stark reminder that systemic and institutional racism in America continues to perpetuate racial, social, and economic inequality for black people and people of color in our society. As New Yorkers and industry leaders, we must acknowledge the oppression, pain and suffering our members, our communities, and our cities continue to endure from the unjust treatment of so many Black Americans.

Sadly, in addition to the events that are currently unfolding, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic further highlights long-standing historic inequalities. Communities of color have disproportionately shouldered the burden of fighting a public health crisis and keeping our great city operating while bearing the brunt of the pandemic's health and economic impacts.

The inequalities laid bare must lead us—as real estate and land use industry professionals—to reflect on our industry's role in the ongoing disparities which communities of color continue to face with regards to equal access to healthcare, education and employment opportunities, accessible and affordable housing and public transportation, essential city services, and parks and other open spaces. Now more than ever it is time to have the difficult and uncomfortable conversations about what our community and industry—which has been and remains predominantly white—can do to drive change and create equal access for all New Yorkers to the thriving, resilient, and equitable communities that are our mission.

We invite our members to come together and work with us over the coming months and years to do our part in addressing racial, social, and economic inequalities in our city, our region, and our industry. We know much hard work lies ahead of us, we are committed to continuing and expanding our diversity and inclusion initiative, and to implementing any other initiatives to drive this necessary change within our industry. We welcome your thoughts on the steps we can take collectively. If you would like to be part of conversations on how we best do so, please reach out and let us know. We want to hear from you.

ULI New York has a unique ability to convene industry leaders around sharing best practices and developing strategies to guide us through times of uncertainty and change. We look forward to coming together, whether in-person or virtually, to have these conversations, learn from each other, and be part of the solutions that deliver meaningful change.

Warmest regards,




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Vice Chairman & President, Equity,
Debt & Structured Finance,
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BRIAN J. COLLINS
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