

We at the South Florida Business Council — along with our partners at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches — stand united in our contempt for acts of discrimination, hatred and injustice. We may be living through a time of unknowns, but one thing is absolutely clear: we must come together and refuse to normalize racial violence in all of its forms, always combating ignorance and hate with understanding and acceptance. The business community must not stand on the sidelines. The impact on our employees as they see their communities in turmoil may be hard to measure, but we know it is profound. We need to be a supportive voice for our team members as well as leaders for change. Embracing diversity must become more than a tagline — it should be a road we build and travel upon every day.

We are hopeful that justice will be served for Mr. Floyd and that he will not be just another statistic too soon followed by yet another senseless tragedy. We are also hopeful that there are voices rising every day to make a difference. Most men and women in police uniforms do their jobs the right way, and try to understand those they serve and protect as evidenced by the news photos of Coral Gables Police officers kneeling with peaceful protestors. There are athletes, political leaders, entertainers and people of all ages, colors and creeds speaking out to condemn, inspire and incite positive change. But make no mistake, words are meaningless without action.

We call upon our fellow business leaders to get comfortable being uncomfortable. Hold a mirror to our organizations and demand we all do better. Engage in positive dialogue to eliminate discrimination and most of all, be a safe, respectful haven for the millions of people who spend more time at work than they do anywhere else. Together we have the power to build a stronger, more unified South Florida.

Jack P. Seiler Chairperson

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Joe Chase Chairperson-elect Christine Barney
Past Chairperson