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## An Open Letter to the Community

Dear Diverse Harmony Choristers and Family,

This has been an extremely emotional week for all of us. Our core mission is: “to serve as a safe space for our singers: youth age 13 to 22 who identify as queer, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning, asexual, or allied, among many others, where they can feel respected and accepted.” The black community has lived for far too long in a society that does not provide safety or respect. Our organization stands in solidarity with our African American family who are now actualizing their “stonewall” moment. The systemic violence against black and brown people is unacceptable. The lack of police accountability for systemic violence across this nation is unacceptable.

When our leaders in the LGBTQIA2+ community stood up 51 years ago for 5 days of riots against systemic police violence against our community that we now look back on as the stonewall movement, our leaders paved the way for the pride celebrations we take for granted today. Stonewall was conceived and led by black and brown leaders we must remember and acknowledge how we got where we are today by lifting others up. We cannot be complacent in this moment. We must declare our support and we do. We must show our support and we are. We pledge as an organization to take concrete steps in the days, weeks, months and years to come, to be a part of ending the violence and systemic racism.

In this moment we as an organization make a commitment to calling out racism when we see it, demanding accountability from our elected officials when we need to, holding ourselves accountable to living up to our mission statement to provide a safe space, a respectful space to our communities’ youth and in this moment expanding it to everybody in our community black and brown.

We stand in solidarity with our neighbors who are marching this week. We know that many of you, both choristers and family members are out marching as well, please know we support you.

Diverse Harmony/ Spectrum

Artistic Director: Allen Leslie

Board Members: Bob Sittig, Steve Walker, Bryant Vehrs and Daneil Newcomb

Choir Manager: Devin Mack

Business Manager: Heidi Toppel