



Serving Children and Adults with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities for 70 Years

June 4, 2019

PAUL TORRES
Executive Director

Dear AHRC Suffolk Individuals, Families and Staff:

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John Smith
President

Joseph Zifchock
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Secretary

In our field we often talk about ensuring social justice for people with disabilities, but of course, social justice must be realized for all people who are marginalized in society. The deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia are stark reminders that our nation has much more to do to ensure the human and civil rights of all Americans, particularly those from black and brown communities.

DIRECTORS

Deborah Pflieger

In times of crisis and not, we, as leaders and as individuals, must both step up and show up. Now more than ever, companies and leaders must reaffirm and reinforce their values through both words and actions. We must be visible and obvious with our commitment and support. During times of crisis, supporting individual wellbeing and success is even more important. Let us reflect on the challenges before us and reaffirm our commitment to equality, justice, inclusion, and respect for all.

Look out for each other, be there for each other, protect each other, help each other. That is the spirit of what has gotten AHRC Suffolk through COVID-19 so far and it is the spirit of what our Nation now needs to get through this current crisis.

Please see this compelling recent post (<https://rfkhumanrights.org/news/condemning-the-violence-of-institutions-and-committing-to-action>) from the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Organization, as well as the accompanying brief video (<https://youtu.be/wEWMgb-M97Q>).

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stay well, stay safe and thank for all you do.

Paul H. Torres
Executive Director