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Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City Reacts to George Floyd's Trial

The Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City welcomes the jury's verdict of guilty on all three counts of murder in the trial of Mr. George Floyd. The verdict ends an important chapter in the pursuit of justice for Mr. Floyd and his family. We recognize that one conviction is not enough to end the racist systems that have plagued our nation for centuries. As leaders and teachers of our people, we embrace what the Torah teaches us: We are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the Divine image and must put the value of all human life at the center of our faith. We encourage every member of our Jewish community to continue working together to end all forms of discrimination in law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

As we aspire to a better, more just future for us all, we pray for comfort for George Floyd's family and for all those who mourn with them. We stand in solidarity with the families of all the victims of police brutality and pray for the day when accountability and equal justice for all becomes a reality.

With the prophet Amos we declare, "Let justice well up like water, and righteousness like an unfailing stream. (Amos 5:24). Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel teaches,

"[...] Righteousness is not a trickle; it is God's power in the world, a torrent, an impetuous drive, full of grandeur and majesty. [...] Righteousness is a vast and mighty stream because God is its unfailing source." (p. 272)

We pray that may we join God's power in doing the work of *tzedek*, of righteousness; may we add ever more strength to that mighty stream of righteousness.

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