



Black Lives Matter

Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) is appalled by ongoing oppression, structural and systemic racism, and disregard for human lives. Black lives matter. We must see that they do on all levels of our society.

Powerful voices of the Black Community have asked for help from us, as allies – to speak to and extinguish the systemic racism engrained in our nation – the systemic racism that has perpetuated fear, distrust, and division.

We are raising our collective voices in solidarity with people who are oppressed in this country and beyond.

For far too long every one of us has failed to solve structural and systemic racism while people of color have been disenfranchised, marginalized, harassed, held down in poverty, and far too often – killed. This has included exclusion from housing – and exclusion from the foundation of accumulating income made possible by housing. The results of that are disproportionate numbers of black and brown people experiencing homelessness, being arrested, being imprisoned, being feared, being oppressed, and being victims of violence.

This system must change. CHOM vows to intentionally work to change it.

CHOM stands for creating homes and inclusive communities. CHOM pledges to do its part to change the world through housing equity, and community inclusion. The recent events have shown us just how distant this goal remains. We have far more work to do.

We at CHOM are working internally to listen and learn from the most oppressed, and to self-examine and grow beyond our own shortcomings.

We will raise our voices and continue our work – welcoming vulnerable and disenfranchised populations into housing that communicates dignity and respect, and ensuring people have support for success there and elsewhere in their lives – while fixing the broken system around us.

We are raising our voice as an ally to people who are subjected to structural and systemic racism. We will also hold ourselves accountable, ensuring our actions support our words and intentions.

CHOM will: Advocate to remove all barriers to housing; ensure our systems are not creating barriers to housing for people of color; and increase the supply of affordable housing.

We stand with others, invigorated, and demanding positive systemic change so that Maine and the rest of the world can be a place where people of color can live in peace and thrive.

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