

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2020



CONTACT

Katharine Ligon, Vice President (she/her/hers)

(713) 204-2990, katharine.ligon@thecaucus.org

Austin Davis Ruiz, Communications Director (he/him/his)

(713) 882-5898, austin.ruiz@thecaucus.org

Houston GLBT Political Caucus Affirms Black Lives Matter

This week marked the beginning of Pride; a month-long celebration of our identities as queer people. It's supposed to be a joyous time where we gather with our biological or chosen families, attend marches and parades, and celebrate our commonalities in the queer experience. It's a time where we honor those that have fought and sacrificed before us to allow us the freedoms and rights we enjoy today, and to remember those whom we have lost along the way. It's a time where we reflect on our successes as a community, and on the progress yet to be made. Most importantly, it's a time for us to be absolutely and unabashedly queer. However, before the glitter and thumping music of Pride parades were the Stonewall Riots where a police raid sparked a riot led by Black, Brown, and Latinx folks such as Marsh P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. And while we knew that Pride this year would be different given our inability to be physically together, we had no idea we would be reliving the riots that started our very movement for equality.

When we were founded in 1975, it was with the mission to eliminate prejudice, violence, and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people through education, activism, and political advocacy. For decades, we have stood up and spoken out against hateful bigotry that has threatened our very existence and we have fought tirelessly to create a world where all human beings are guaranteed the freedom, equality, and opportunity they so rightly deserve.

Today, we stand again in the face of prejudice, violence, and injustice. For far too long, institutions of power have allowed white supremacy to sow the seeds of division amongst us. Social injustice has run rampant and the inequities within our society have failed to be addressed. Dozens of Black men, women, and children have been senselessly murdered at the hands of law enforcement, and now, it is time to finally put an end to these atrocities. As a community we must rise up, stand in solidarity, and affirm that Black lives matter.

Instead of celebrating the beginning of Pride month, we mourn the loss of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and the many, many others before them. We are unwavering in our support. Our work continues.

###

The Houston GLBT Political Caucus is the South's oldest, civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, it is the largest GLBT political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.