

CDN STATEMENT FOR THIS MOMENT

Black Lives Matter

The recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd shines a spotlight on a crisis that has afflicted America for hundreds of years -- the devaluation and destruction of Black and brown lives and communities. In response to these outrages, we reaffirm that **Black Lives Matter**.

In 2019, the Baltimore City Committee of CDN became Baltimore Equitable CDN. We changed the name because our dialogue/conversations with black community development leaders convinced us that we focus needed to include addressing structural racism in Baltimore. We concluded that "the long-term map of inequality is not changing fast enough. Within our development system, there is unequal access to best practices, funding, and political capital across organizations and neighborhoods in order to erase the distrust and fragmentation that currently exist. The deep past and continued existence of institutionalized racism are root causes of these inequities." This perspective shapes our work, however imperfectly we take action. These inequities are not limited to Baltimore.

As our state responds to the long-term crisis of structural racism and the new threat of COVID-19, we have to pursue an Equitable Recovery. What is the path ahead? Andre M. Perry of the Brookings Institution just published **Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities**. He writes, "Knowing the worth of our homes, businesses, and communities -- assets -- starts with knowing that our assets are constantly being devalued. The devaluation of our assets affects us physically, psychologically, and economically in negative ways, one of which is to rob us of our sense of self-worth and dignity. Demanding our proper price helps us achieve just and equitable distributions of needed resources and reinforces the notion that there is nothing wrong with Black people that ending racism can't solve. Racist federal, state and local policies creating housing, education, and wealth disparities. Policy must work for Black people in the same way it has supported White people's efforts to lift themselves up."

The Community Development Network is dedicated to ensuring that every Marylander, *no matter who they are or where they live*, can enjoy living in a community that is safe, healthy, equitable, and resilient. We are committed to today's fight for justice, and in all the battles to come.

*Until the killing of black men, black mothers' sons
Is as important as the killing of white men, white mothers' sons
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.*
Ella's Song by Bernice Johnson Reagon