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**HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

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**Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission  
Issues Statement on Racism**

(Evansville, IN) – In light of the recent killings of unarmed people of color and global uprisings calling for an end to racism, the Human Relations Commission released a statement affirming its commitment to combating racism. Human Relations Commission Chairperson, Ruby McGlown said, “We encourage the community to stand together in dismantling racism in all its forms”. Please find the statement below.

Recent tragic events have helped to catalyze demonstrations across this city, state and world. The City of Evansville-Vanderburgh County Human Relations Commission stands with our local community and citizens across this country in condemning racism-individual, institutional and structural. Racism is a societal ill that dehumanizes lives solely based on skin color. Sadly, in 2020, we are still witnessing racism and discrimination. We are steadfast in our commitment to eradicate systemic racism, eliminate racial disparities, and cultivate racial equity.

As the civil rights agency for the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, the mission of the Commission is to promote equality of opportunity primarily through the enforcement of civil rights laws on the local level. The Human Relations Commission investigates discrimination complaints in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and education.

Inaction or silence in the face of injustice will only perpetuate racism. The time is now for our City to come together to tackle racism in all forms by addressing the normalization and legitimization of white supremacy, racist institutional policies and practices, and explicit or implicit bias. We must recognize historical patterns of racism while at the same time acknowledging the present plight of our fellow citizens. We need to have open dialogue about racism and collaborate to make systemic changes to the barriers that have been created for individuals to live with daily, based on the color of their skin.

After the last protest has ended, we hope that the fight to end racism continues. The Human Relations Commission law states that it is the public policy of the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County to provide all of its citizens equal opportunity because of race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, familial status (housing), sexual orientation, and gender identity. As a Commission, we remain dedicated to this charge. Although we acknowledge the progress that has been made, there is still more work to be done. We should work collectively and intentionally to establish a community environment free from racism and discrimination.

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