

Message from Dr. Alan Freeman, President and CEO

Interpreting the meaning of events and promoting social justice are among the most important responsibilities of leaders in organizations like ours. The killing of George Floyd, which infuriates us and we so deeply regret, presents this necessity. Many of our staff, patients and communities are experiencing trauma because of this senseless act. My heart is saddened by all of it.

The first thing I want to say to everyone is this . . . there is never justice unless there is justice for all. In a civil society, racial and social injustices should not be found. There is no excuse for them, and we are rightfully frustrated and angry at their recurrence. And how do we respond? May I encourage us to consider the following . . .

Many of you (and I) live by a certain creed. It's a creed of faith, an abiding faith in God who we believe created us. As everyone knows, the beloved and revered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of unwavering faith. Through his profound wisdom, he once said: "As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love." He also said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

I know quite well that the staff and volunteers of Affinia Healthcare are deeply faithful . . . not only to whom we choose to serve, but to our mission. Through these commitments, we continually show dignity and respect to thousands of people vitally in need of our services. These are important ways we can help assure fairness and justice in our region. Perhaps through our patient- and community-centered work, we change hearts and help make life equitable and just for everyone.



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