

# Listen. Engage. Act.

**We must listen.  
We must act.**

**T**he tragic and brutal death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis and the resulting protests have put the issues of police brutality and racial injustice at the forefront of the American psyche. Citizens throughout the country are demanding that their governments combat brutality, inequity and racial intolerance in all their forms. Local officials must seize this moment. The Michigan Municipal League Board of Trustees affirms that Black Lives Matter and reasserts its commitment to model and teach diversity and inclusive behavior. The best communities are those that are welcoming to everyone and provide for the safety of all who live and visit there.

It is our responsibility as community leaders to respond to our residents through systematic change. To foster real progress, we must combat the problem of police brutality and work to eliminate it in every community of every size and demographic makeup. The change we create must be strategic and done with compassion and understanding.

As community leaders, we serve our citizens best when we understand their experiences—the good and the bad.

As we move forward, it is time to hear the voices of everyone in our communities. These conversations can be difficult and uncomfortable, but they are long overdue.

**The time to act is now.**



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