

**June 22, 2020**

**Vince Malta**

2020 President

**Bob Goldberg**

Chief Executive Officer

**ADVOCACY GROUP**

**William E. Malkasian**

Chief Advocacy Officer / SVP

**Shannon McGahn**

SVP Government Affairs

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy,

After the senseless killing of George Floyd—and countless other people of color—the need to reform policing in America has never been more apparent. This is the clear and defining civil rights issue of our time. The National Association of REALTORS® supports this movement, and on behalf of our 1.4 million members I thank you for your commitment to ensuring every American receives equitable treatment under the law.

Over the past several weeks, community, religious and political leaders have put forth their ideas on what needs to change. REALTORS® want to be a part of helping our neighbors heal as we continue to move forward, but at this time of national reflection and community engagement, we also have a responsibility to listen, learn and work with our members and others as we search for solutions together and make sure that we are doing our part in creating strong and inclusive communities.

Fair housing, equality and inclusion are among NAR's most cherished values. Our REALTOR® members follow a strict Code of Ethics that not only defines us as professionals but explicitly prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We are committed to leading the way on policies that address racial injustice and build communities where people of every color feel safe and free to pursue their own American Dream. Discrimination is a poison, whether it is found in housing, policing or elsewhere.

While our association has a longstanding commitment to strengthening fair housing laws and eradicating housing discrimination, NAR has spent recent years reexamining how our 1.4 million members can best lead the fight against discrimination, bigotry and injustice. Last summer, NAR created a new



Director of Fair Housing position, filled by a 29-year veteran of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and its former top career official overseeing enforcement of the Fair Housing Act.

And just this January, NAR unveiled a new Fair Housing Accountability, Culture Change and Training (ACT!) Plan, designed to highlight and maximize our members' role in protecting housing rights in America. In accordance with the new initiative, NAR has begun developing practices to ensure our members uphold the fair housing standards incorporated in NAR's Code of Ethics; begin integrating fair housing into all conferences and engagements; and form partnerships with fair housing advocates to pursue shared goals around accountability and training, among others. NAR's ACT! plan also contributes to our other efforts to increase minority homeownership, which helps people of all backgrounds build wealth and strengthens communities.

NAR is also establishing a new Community Rebuilding Grant program, which provides funding for REALTOR® Associations to lead efforts to rebuild and restore public community places impacted by recent racial injustice demonstrations. These funds, can go towards items like cleaning supplies, building materials, tools, and protective equipment. This grant is the latest in a number of funding programs that NAR provides to improve our communities, including Fair Housing grants, Diversity Initiative grants and Housing Opportunity grants, among many others. We want to play an integral role in helping our neighborhoods move forward, and we know that building the future begins with equal access to housing and opportunity for all. The 1968 Fair Housing Act brought generational change to fair housing. We hope for a broader landmark moment for racial injustice.

As these important conversations continue on Capitol Hill and in communities across this nation, NAR looks forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle as we make a long overdue commitment to eradicating racial discrimination in all facets of our society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vince Malta", written in a cursive style.

Vince Malta  
2020 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: United States House of Representatives  
United States Senate