

Black lives matter. George Floyd's life mattered. Breonna Taylor's life mattered. Ahmaud Arbery's life mattered. All those beyond the news headlines, their lives mattered too. Five years since the death of Freddie Gray and the Baltimore Uprising, we mourn yet more Black lives lost and feel the weight of things unchanged.

Black lives matter. Deaths in the US from COVID-19 exceeded 100,000 last week. This pandemic is disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities, which are experiencing significantly higher rates of infection and death. Racism is a public health issue with dire consequences.

Black lives matter. The weaponization of police by white people, which we witnessed Christian Cooper experience in Central Park last week, is unacceptable and endangers black lives.

**Black lives matter. Beth Am condemns police brutality, racist policing, systemic racism, and injustice in our society. The Beth Am community acknowledges and validates the anger, devastation, frustration, and exhaustion that black congregants, friends, and neighbors are voicing. We recognize that our community must do more, and it cannot wait.**

Join Beth Am's Social Action Committee and IFO (working to strengthen the relationship between the Beth Am and Reservoir Hill communities) in signing on to the [Citizens Policing Project's commitment to Baltimore](#) and donating to black-led organizations standing up for justice:

- [Black Visions](#) - organizing on the ground in Minnesota.
- [Out for Justice](#) - Baltimore-based, providing mutual aid for recently released individuals; indicate "Mutual Aid" in the donation notes.
- [Baltimore Black-led Solidarity Fund](#) - providing micro-grants for Black-led social change in Baltimore.

To join the Beth Am Social Action Committee Google Group and get notified of meetings and other programming, [email Evan Serpick](#).

For more information about IFO and how you can support IFO's efforts, contact IFO Co-Chairs [Ilana Ginsberg](#) and [Jackie Oldham](#), or Membership Committee Chair, [Betty Chemers](#)