Dear Leadership Atlanta Family,

Since our first class came together 50 years ago, advancing racial equity has been at the very core of Leadership Atlanta’s work. It would not surprise you that class after class continues to say Race Awareness weekend is the single most powerful – and life changing -- element of the program year.

The events of this past week have only deepened our commitment to making change happen. While we are outraged and frustrated, we should also be heartened by growing signs our country may finally be at a tipping point for real change. More than ever, the work ahead requires fearless, thoughtful and prepared leaders, and Leadership Atlanta is already working to identify appropriate ways to help our community eliminate racism, advance equality and move forward together.

This week, we assembled a Task Force of alumni charged with developing recommendations for our path forward. Once the group begins its work in earnest, stay tuned for updates from me – including ways you can personally contribute. Our Membership committee is working closely with the Task Force to ensure our programming for the coming year supports our goals. And I’ve been inspired to see three classes begin efforts of their own and want them and all of you to know we will support class programs however we can.

At the same time, we call upon leaders both inside and outside the Leadership Atlanta community to take a stand; turn your frustration into action and work to combat inequity both personally and professionally. Racial and social injustice has no place in this world, and it certainly has no place in leadership.

We have a great opportunity in front of us. When you think about your experiences in Leadership Atlanta and throughout your own lives, remember that you have a deeper understanding of the challenges and solutions than most others. Don’t ever think there’s nothing you can do to make change happen. You can. In fact, Atlanta and all of us are counting on you.

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