



Jersey City Free Public Library
472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302

June 1, 2020

To the Jersey City Community:

The Jersey City Free Public Library is committed to the work of building racial equity in our community.

We acknowledge and fervently condemn the systemic dehumanization and disenfranchisement of People of Color, across the nation and around the world. We also recognize that Black people in the United States are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing health and economic crisis of COVID-19, as a direct result of centuries of enslavement and continued institutionalized racism.

We support and thank those who have gathered publicly and peacefully in recent days, here in Jersey City and across the globe, to raise their voices for justice in the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless others, and to call for an immediate end to state-sanctioned violence against Black and Brown people.

We work alongside those who share a vision of a future where all those who live, work, and study in Jersey City have the critical access and necessary tools to reach their full potential. We know that we all have a stake in this future. And we embrace the special role of a public library in this work.

We believe that public libraries must not be neutral or silent in the face of injustice. We provide access to critical information and resources, create physical and virtual spaces where families and neighbors can stay connected and informed, and welcome all to see the Library as a second home. The nature of the work we do calls us to confront injustice honestly and forthrightly.

We are committed to pulling down the structural barriers to access that so many in our community face, especially the barriers found within our own institution.

The last few months have been a trying time, but we have been inspired by the many ways which our community has exhibited the strength, resourcefulness, and compassion needed to move forward constructively.

The Jersey City Free Public Library has been a cornerstone of our community for over 100 years. We will continue to engage fully and wholeheartedly in the work of providing information, resources, and space for our community to learn, heal, and rebuild, now and into the future.

In the spirit of service,

Jeffrey Trzeciak
Library Director

Curt Harris
President, Board of Trustees