



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Victim Assistance Program's Commitment to Change
A Letter From President & CEO, Leanne Graham**

For decades, the mission of Victim Assistance Program has been to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy.

We know that communities of color are, and have been, victims of racism long before the murder of George Floyd. We commend the black community and nonblack allies for vocalizing the oppressed historical trauma the black community has endured for far too long.

Our eyes and ears are wide open; we hear you; we see you; we support you. As the President & CEO of Victim Assistance Program, I recognize that we have talked the talk, but now we are committed to walk the walk. Yes, we have received an abundance of inclusivity training but unfortunately it has ended there; we are sorry. As an agency, we must do more, not only for the black community, but for all oppressed communities.

Victim Assistance Program hosted our first planning team meeting yesterday, solidifying our long-term commitment to becoming an inclusive agency. Our collective staff are dedicated to taking actionable, tangible, and visible steps to change the way our historic agency has engaged with our community. This is not a project, this is not a task, this is a long-term institutional shift that will incorporate humility, patience, education, and practice.

Victim Assistance Program shares in our local leaders' desire to change our ways. Together we will prevail, but we too understand that it does begin from within.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leanne Graham".

Leanne Graham
President & CEO

About Victim Assistance Program

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. The purpose of the Agency is to provide 24-hour crisis response, advocacy services, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. To learn more about Victim Assistance Program's services, and ways to get involved, visit victimassistanceprogram.org or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.

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