

Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC)

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

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Contact through

Riché S. Outlaw
EJ Coordinator
Office of Environmental Justice
NJDEP
riche.outlaw@dep.nj.gov

EJAC Statement on the Murder of George Floyd

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The Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) joins the rest of the nation in grieving the senseless murder of George Floyd.

Environmental Justice (EJ) is inherently a social justice issue given that systemic racism, institutional neglect and injustice within communities of color are at the core of many societal issues. Environmental Justice communities are predominantly low-income communities of color and the environmental disparities that exist leading to health disparities continue to be highlighted, especially during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the EJAC cannot overlook the fact that this body would not need to exist if there was equity in all spheres. We will redouble our efforts to end environmental injustice which requires us to acknowledge and denounce the current state of social and environmental injustice.

While we continue to support efforts ensuring that the basic right of residing in an environment that is free of environmental hazards is upheld, we strongly support efforts ensuring that the basic civil rights of African American residents within the society are also upheld. It is important that together we unapologetically use our voices to transform policies and end systemic racism that leaves our EJ neighborhoods and communities with a lower quality of life than others.

Note: The Environmental Justice Advisory Council is an advisory body to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). It is not a division of the NJDEP. The views and opinions on this page are those of the Environmental Justice Advisory Council.