

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

May 31, 2020

The Board and Staff of San Francisco Pride are outraged by the acts of anti-Black violence that have resulted in the loss of Tony McDade, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor's lives at the hands of law enforcement officers. We also speak the name of Ahmaud Arbery, who was murdered by ordinary citizens playing out law-enforcement fantasies. We even speak the name of Christian Cooper, who was not killed, but who was knowingly intimidated with a threat of police violence — a threat the perpetrator KNEW could have cost him his life.

We acknowledge that all of these deaths happened because of a culture of policing that encourages extra scrutiny and policing of Black bodies. We stand firmly against all of these actions — and in the names of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, we stand in solidarity with the protestors who say, "No more!" to this terror that is repeatedly visited upon Black people. As Will Smith stated, "Racism is not getting worse. Racism is being videotaped."

We are also making sure that we lift up the name of Tony McDade in particular. Tony was a Black transgender man who was murdered by police in Florida on May 27. Black LGBTQ violence and death are consistently overlooked by national media even as QTPOC — Black queer people, specifically — are disproportionately marginalized and continuously devalued. As an LGBTQ+ organization, we must continue to say his name and make sure he is not ignored. As a Black LGBTQ individual, I must personally make sure that the safety and wellness of Black queer people is the lens through which I see the world.

If you would like to hear a full statement about our stance on these senseless murders and law enforcement, I encourage you to listen in on our Board Meeting this Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. On-time arrival is encouraged.

In Solidarity,
Carolyn Wysinger
Board President