

Bridge Meadows is outraged and saddened by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and most recently, Rayshard Brooks. We stand with the Black Community in mourning the lost lives and the history of inhumane treatment and harm they have experienced. Systems of violence and oppression have traumatized our Black Communities for generations. In a world where Black lives are systemically and intentionally impacted by death, injustice, and disparities in opportunities and resources, we stand with all Black people in support of dismantling these systems of oppression. As Portland City Commissioner, Jo Ann Hardesty, stated, “It’s about the entire history and system that we’ve been living in and that’s what we need to come to terms with and tackle head on.”

Bridge Meadows stands for communities where all children, their parents, and elders are safe and experience a sense of belonging. To our Bridge Meadows elders who have witnessed so much over the years, we feel your anguish and fatigue. To our Bridge Meadows parents who are raising children, we hear and see your justifiable anger and fear. To our children, we promise to do better and raise our voices with yours.

We reiterate our commitment to racial justice and equity, knowing that the values of mutual care and respect must be embodied in our communities if we are to heal the deep wounds of racism and violence.

We all must engage in a continuous process of acknowledging racism and directing our individual and collective behavior in favor of justice and equity for all. We are listening to the voices of our Black Community as well as those of our Indigenous and Latino/a/x Communities to guide our actions. Organizations such as the Coalition of Communities of Color, culturally-specific local organizations, and national movements such as #BlackLivesMatter have expressed what communities, friends, and allies can do. At Bridge Meadows, we are taking the following steps:

- Internally, we are making our [Bridge Meadows Equity Statement](#) central in guiding our decision-making at all levels, including our commitment to diversifying our board and staff;
- We are partnering with communities of color as we create Bridge Meadows communities, and elevating their voices as we address head-on housing insecurity and dire lack of safe, quality affordable housing;
- We are supporting voter participation;
- We are supporting local policies to strengthen and enforce laws that protect communities of color.

We must be courageous in identifying and addressing racism and bias as it is enacted and recreated in our own lives. We are committed to the journey for a just and equitable world. We are committed to



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decisive action, and in joining with our communities to make and be the change we need to see in our world.

In solidarity,

Michael Schrader, JD
Bridge Meadows
Board Chair

Derenda Schubert, PhD
Bridge Meadows
Executive Director

Renee Moseley, LC
Bridge Meadows
Associate Director