



Snohomish County Public Defender Association

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June 30, 2020

The Snohomish County Public Defender Association (SCPDA) Board of Directors stands in solidarity with communities of color and in support of SCPDA employees and community members who protest, bear witness, and speak out against systemic racism.

Thank you to Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, and other Snohomish County leaders, for your statements condemning the frightening killing of George Floyd and too many other Black people. SCPDA joins the denunciation of white supremacy and accepts your call to eradicate racism. Public defenders offer an opportunity to provide insights and expose unacceptable practices that have directly contributed to the overrepresentation of black and brown people in our courts and jails.

SCPDA will be adding an anti-racism directive as part of its mission. Being an anti-racism organization means purposefully identifying, discussing, and challenging issues of race and the impacts they have on the organization, our community, and justice systems. Being an anti-racism organization means that SCPDA will have the courage and the drive to correct and challenge any inequities that exist at SCPDA and in our communities we represent.

A public defender organization plays a critical role in fighting against racial injustice. As long as racist systems exist, the work continues.

Vickie K Norris

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President, SCPDA