

A Statement from the Astronomy Club Officers:

This past week, we have all been shocked and horrified by the murder of George Floyd, but as we all know, this is not an isolated instance. There is a long history of police brutality and systematic racism in the United States. As club officers, we want to acknowledge these current events, share information about resources, and proclaim our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. It is simply not enough to be non-racist. Instead, we must all be actively anti-racist. As a club, we see hope in our generation protesting and standing up to the system that unfairly targets Black Americans.

We as officers pledge to uphold the constitution of our club and would like to bring attention to our policy of non-discrimination on the basis of protected classes (age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation, and Vietnam Era veteran status) that we want our members to uphold. Astronomy Club, as an organization, is a safe haven for everyone, no matter who they are. If any members witness or experience any issues, we want you to please report them to us. We want to create a safe and comfortable environment for all of our members, and we take matters of discrimination very seriously.

We feel that it is important to be an active participant in this movement in any way that you can, whether it is donating, signing petitions, or attending protests. We are attaching links so that all of you have access to resources, both local and nation-wide, so that we can all do our part in the fight for equality and justice. Below, we have links to a carrd, which has a comprehensive list of petitions, donation links, and ways that you can be actively anti-racist and support the Black community. We have also included some local, black-owned restaurants in Tucson. It is important that we all are actively spreading this information, but are also critical of the information that we are sharing. While it is imperative that we share and boost information about the Black Lives Matter movement and protests, it is important that we share reliable sources and fact-check for ourselves.

We are here for you, and we support you. We hope that the following resources serve as a source of empowerment if any of you are feeling helpless during these times. We need to be proponents of change in our communities and stand up for what is right. If any of you are struggling or feel overwhelmed, do not hesitate to reach out to any of the officers.

With endless love and support,
UA Astronomy Club Officers

Comprehensive list of resources:

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>

Astrobites supporting black astronomers:

<https://astrobites.org/2020/06/03/how-can-we-support-black-astronomers/>

Daily Wildcat article on the local protests in Tucson:

<https://www.wildcat.arizona.edu/article/2020/06/n-floyd-protst-may30>

Excerpt from today's speech by former President Obama:

<https://nyti.ms/2XtOQs9>

Donate to Tucson second chance bail fund:

<https://watchtucson.com/>

List of Bail Funds Nationwide:

<https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbfndirectory>

Minneapolis funds for community safety:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESHBy0MKXTIcQ2?fbclid=IwAR1mozFqHICrjSN7tPDAkjJAwnxdkw8VbVVI6xygTPscsvzC-lQfhEaey0U>

Black Lives Matter Tucson's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ALLblacklives/>

