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Transportation Authority Board - June 9, 2020 Chair Peskin's Opening Statement on Racial Violence

Colleagues,

I want to start today's meeting by acknowledging the anger, anguish and heartbreak that we are all feeling.

The murder of George Floyd on Minneapolis public streets by law enforcement, the shooting of Ahmaud Arbery while jogging in his own neighborhood in Georgia, and now the killing of Sean Monterrosa the unarmed young San Franciscan shot by Vallejo police while kneeling on the sidewalk, are just the latest tragedies that horrified us all and demand justice.

I know I speak for my colleagues when I say that the Transportation Authority calls for justice for each of these individuals and all victims of racial violence and police brutality.

We recognize that our streets and sidewalks are public squares that must be safe and secure for all, and that we have a long way to go to achieve this for everyone in our community.

Even as we mourn, there is hope and solace in the fact that these same streets are where many women, men and children of all backgrounds are gathering to speak up for Black lives and to demand long overdue reforms.

Our calls for justice underscore that even in this time of pain and sadness, we have not lost sight of where we must go as a city and as a nation.

We at the Transportation Authority commit to doing our part to support Black Lives, safe streets, and just enforcement, while advancing racial equity in all that we do.

Thank you.

Chair Aaron Peskin