



NEW YORK CITY

# MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

42 Broadway • Suite 1945 • New York, NY 10004 • 212-964-0035 • info@nycmea.org  
• nycmea.org

June 11, 2020

To the Editor,

*“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”* Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The NYC Managerial Employees Association was founded in October 1968, the same year Dr. King was organizing the Poor People’s campaign before his assassination in April. The Poor People’s Campaign promoted an “economic bill of rights for all Americans”, which included five pillars: a meaningful job at a living wage; a secure and adequate income; access to land; access to capital, especially for poor people and minorities; and the ability for ordinary people to “play a truly significant role” in the government. For fifty-two years, the MEA has advocated for economic justice for people of all races, religions and genders.

Today, we recognize how our lives have been forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic suffering that is exacerbating income inequality and witnessing the unconscionable asphyxiation of George Floyd by law enforcement.

The MEA stands in solidarity with all causes to eliminate hatred, racism and police brutality. Apologies are simple and easy; however, the real challenge is to prevent future generations from suffering from past failures. This requires sincere commitment and open discussions in all communities to develop meaningful resolutions on how we remove the knee from the necks of so many people.

In New York City, we have nearly 400,000 public employees who have dedicated their lives to making this the greatest city in the world. We will need to be honest with ourselves and each other walking together on the difficult road of eliminating the injustices of our time.

Local and national legislative initiatives are only the public part of the change process towards a “new norm”. We all must reach out to our co-workers and neighbors to do the hard work of bending the arc of our personal and moral universe towards Dr. King’s economic bill of rights in pursuit of justice for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Shelly Shulman, President  
NYC Managerial Employees Association