

Fellow Greeks,

Between racial inequality, the pandemic, and social isolation, 2020 was an unusually stressful year. Many, including myself, had a hard time grappling with the unique challenges presented daily in our lives.

However, there were some positives:

- We observed a unification in the media and businesses in the appeal for further diversity in leadership. Better policing and policies yielded safer encounters with law enforcement for black and brown communities.
- We saw states shift from supporting racist propaganda and demonstrate support for change in policy that is more inclusive for individuals of color.
- We witnessed the solidarity in support of the triumph of our Divine -9 sister, Vice-President of the United States, Kamala Harris.

Never have we displayed so powerfully that while our colors and letters vary, our allegiance to backing the achievements of leaders does not. I am overjoyed to see the support of our first woman and person of color in the office of Vice President of the United States. She is a living example for our youth that people who look like them go on to lead the world in something other than sports.

As we enter 2021, challenges still await us. There is no shortage of hatred and racism pushed by elected officials, the media, and frankly representatives within our own organizations. However, we must remain vigilant in opposing racism and prejudice against black and brown people.

As the Divine 9, we must together provide assistance to OUR community while remaining disciplined in our attempts to live safe during this pandemic. We do this by continuing our work to provide meals and supplies to our homeless, honor our healthcare workers, partner with small volunteer organizations and small businesses, and ensure that we recognize the temperature of local politics. No longer can we afford to be weakened by the pandemic or fear.

As one body we will stand together to do our part to ensure everyone gets access to mental and physical health resources and a voice with our local leaders. Leaders who, like us, have been charged with lifting our community.

I look forward to serving with each of you this year. I am positive we will bounce back more unified. Lastly, we will take a stronger role in leading our community as each of our founders intended.

Respectfully,

Greek Leland Howard
President, Charlotte NPHC

