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May 3, 2023

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Governor
State of New Jersey
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

Throughout the last three budget cycles, members of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus have worked in concert with the Executive and Majority Offices to present priorities that would prove most impactful for the future outcomes of our Black and minority constituents residing within our great state. Our proven leadership and track record has resulted in the aversion of food insecurities and the looming housing crisis. We also doubled down in our commitment to fully fund the *Educational Opportunity Fund* for our state colleges and universities. Our caucus members have worked diligently to fund fair share housing and lead remediation across the entire state.

Today, as we embark upon another budget cycle it is imperative that we continue to work towards the remediation of historic harms of wage stagnation, educational attainment, and support of the health and safety of all families. To that end, we stand united in support of the following budget priorities that uplift marginalized communities of color within our state.

- Local 195 IFPTE to receive a one-time appropriation of \$12 million to provide a **one-time** payment to the 5,500 men and women who worked tirelessly through the height of the Covid Pandemic and continue to show up to provide the necessary safety services to the State of New Jersey. These are workers in Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Corrections, Education (Katzenbach School for the Deaf), Environmental Protection, Health, and State Colleges and Universities just to name a few. This is a non-recurring one-time payment.
- The Family Success Institute in all 21 counties an appropriation of \$25.4 million for the Community Recovery and Family Success Act, which will support community-based services designed to enable children and families to succeed in life and avoid the costly adverse outcomes that social and economic distress fosters.

- Vineland African American Community Development Corporation \$200,000 to implement the Black and Latino Male Institute for “at risk” high school-aged males in the Cumberland County area and mentor them through violence, and school dropout diversion programming as well as promoting healthy lifestyle choices that include career readiness, and community service.
- YWCA Northern NJ an appropriation of \$2 million to support Racial Trauma and Healing. Currently, NJ lacks a publicly funded community-based mental health center with specialists in racial trauma. These funds will support the following elements: access to clinical care, education, and awareness, and strengthening the workforce all of which are designed to remove barriers to care and healing.

We remain devoted to the creation and sustainment of safe open spaces for recreation, and more specifically creative and innovative spaces in our urban areas. It is vital that we work towards the future design of smart parks and centers for programs for all ages that include our children and seniors. For this purpose, we remain committed to an investment of **\$1 billion dollars for community resources and recreation centers in urban areas to support creative programs that include science, technology, arts, and music.**

Part of the work on this goal has started with the investment in Hinchcliffe Stadium in Paterson, Liberty State Park, Harriet Tubman Square, and Museum. We must sustain these historic cultural, recreation, and innovation investments across our great state.

This much-needed work will continue to break down the structural and systemic barriers **to support home ownership and preservation for persons of color with wage insecurities.** A key strategy to combat the disparity between the median wealth held by White households in comparison to Black households is homeownership. Thus, impacting housing insecurity.

Finally, we will continue **capacity building for community-based violence intervention programs to combat violence and gun violence in urban areas.**

In Service,



Asw. Shavonda Sumter

Cc: Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor
Nicholas Scutari, NJ Senate President
Craig Coughlin, NJ General Assembly Speaker