

Statement from Dorri McWhorter, Chief Executive Officer YWCA Metropolitan Chicago on Adam Toledo Shooting

April 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

As the leader of an organization whose mission is to eliminate racism, empower women and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all, I am fortunate to be surrounded by 300 people who do the work to fulfill this mission every day. Unfortunately, we live in a world where we are reminded daily of just how critical our mission is. The recent shooting of Adam Toledo in our city, as well as other police-involved incidents across the country have continued to inflict pain on the families having experienced the loss of a loved one, the communities we serve, and in fact, each of us.

Today, I relayed a message to my YWCA colleagues asking them to please take care of themselves. I know that the difficult work we do, as well as the trauma we all experience from these events weigh heavy on us. I ask the same of you. As we hold space for the grieving family and friends of Adam Toledo, I ask that each of you do what feels best to you at this time - hug your own child, practice self-care, advocate for policies that prevent tragedies like this from reoccurring, continue your commitment to social change - all expressions of our humanity are welcome.

Danes