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**MICHIGAN
ROUNDTABLE**
FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Case for Col. Etue's Resignation

Since Col. Kriste Etue's late-September repost of a meme referring to NFL players choosing not to stand during the national anthem as "degenerates" and "millionaire ingrates," there have been wide-ranging calls for her resignation and for Governor Snyder to fire Col Etue. I reached out to her on Sept. 27, requesting a meeting, wanting first to meet with her before I issued any decision, since this is the work I am involved with daily at a personal and professional level. I wanted to have a conversation about her comments and discern how best to support her on her path to a deeper and more functional racial awareness. While that is still my hope even though she referred me to a State Police Captain in Detroit earlier this month, based on conversations with those most harmed by her remarks I am led to conclude she is no longer the correct person to lead the Michigan State Police.

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion calls for Col. Etue to lead by example and resign from her position as Director of the Michigan State Police. I remain concerned for Col. Etue as she has, I trust, poured her head and heart into the challenging work involved in beginning her racial justice journey. There is much listening and humility ahead for her as she begins to deconstruct her participation in a racially unjust world. Further, the Michigan Roundtable would be honored to assist the Governor as he seeks to drive change throughout state government.

I invite Col. Etue to attend our racial justice programs which include movies and discussion, candid conversations about the spatial racism in which we are mired, touring an exhibit on housing segregation, engage in ALPACT (Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust), and community work with citizens fighting racism in Detroit, Flint, Benton Harbor and the Native Community in the Upper Peninsula. But this journey and exploration should not be done while in a position of power in the state government where, not only fellow officers, but the public will be exposed to further bias. For a more developed reflection on the Case for Col. Etue's Resignation" and for more information on the work of the 76-year-old Roundtable I invite you to visit our website: www.MIRoundtable.org.

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The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has been a not-for-profit human relations and racial justice organization located in Detroit working to overcome discrimination and racism by crossing racial, religious, ethnic and cultural boundaries for the past 76 years. The Roundtable brings together interested citizens and community leaders to understand different points of view and then act to overcome structural impediments to inclusion and equity.