

## Nicholas Erickson

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**From:** Vikki Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 11:17 PM  
**To:** Nicholas Erickson  
**Subject:** Fwd: Black Lives Matter Speech

Hi Nick,

This is my speech from the BLM March on Tuesday 10/13/2020.

Best,

Vikki

Black Lives Matter is not a new movement (it was founded in 2013 after the death of Trayvon Martin, who was fatally shot by a self-appointed neighborhood watchman).

And more recently The death of George Floyd, who died after a white policeman knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, even after he pleaded that he could not breathe, and that has catapulted the Black Lives Matter movement into a new phase of activity against racism and police killings of black Americans. As a result, people from all over the world have united in protests, and educating each other on racial inequality, from former President Barack Obama, to young teens on TikTok.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama shared a statement reminding everyone that this issue is not just up to people of color to deal with, "It's up to all of us black, white, everyone, no matter who you are. Please hear me BLACK LIVES MATTER...BLACK LIVES MATTER....

As I stand here I need for you to understand how painful it is to be reminded every day how my race means nothing.

When I hear "All Lives Matter" I hear it for exactly what it is!  
It is being used to invalidate the #BlackLivesMatter Campaign.

I am so tired of hearing folks saying "all lives matter"! Would you please just STOP IT!!

No one is saying your life isn't hard. No one is saying you don't go through anything.

But this is not about you. You are not in need. You are not in fear. You are not in danger. You are not a suspect simply because of the color of your skin.

Black Lives Matter' doesn't mean other lives don't matter. Black lives matter speaks to racism and the disproportionate risk that Black people face with our law enforcement and justice system every day!!

I have great anxiety and fear that another young black man or black woman might be choked to death while being detained one day or shot in the back while unarmed, or shot and killed in the safety of their home while sleeping.... ?

And that's one of the main reasons why we are consistently trying to get this message out. And that's why we protest..... That's why "I" speak out and protest!

I think it's sad that I'm here today protesting the same thing that I did over 50 years ago, 57 to be exact!!

I feel that I've been pulled in a time warp! So I say to you all, it's been time for change, and it is still up to us.

We must have the tough conversations with our friends.... and family. I do it almost daily.

And every opportunity I try to educate my non-black friends on how they can help.  
And one way is to Vote.

Vote for my future! Vote for my children, my grandchildren, and my great grandchildren's future.....and  
Vote for the future of you and yours.  
That's one way to make change.

Another way to make change...you need to use your voice, no matter how big or small your platform is,  
you need to use your voice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, said that, "The silence of the good people is worse than the brutality of the bad people". And believe me I have felt the brutality of the bad people!

So, you need to not be silent....If you are choosing silence, you're choosing the side of the oppressor."  
BLACK LIVES MATTER

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*Vikki Brown, Chair*

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