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NYS ASSEMBLY PUERTO RICAN/HISPANIC TASK FORCE

**Statement from Chairwoman Maritza Davila on the murder of
George Floyd by Minneapolis Police**

This week America witnessed what can only be described as the execution of George Floyd, a black man from Minneapolis who was accused of a nonviolent offense. The videos show George handcuffed, and subdued. He did not appear to be resisting at all while Derek Chauvin, held his knee to Mr. Floyd's neck for eight minutes and forty six seconds including over 2 minutes after Mr. Floyd clearly stated he could not breathe and amid protests from witnesses that he was clearly in distress. This death hit way too close to home for members of the Task Force, reminding us of the killing of Eric Garner for selling loose cigarettes on the streets of New York City.

The anger and emotions we've seen in New York, Minnesota, Atlanta, Dallas, Oakland and many other cities are the result of not only too many killings but a perceived lack of accountability by police officers. Our community will no longer remain silent. Peaceful protest is a fundamental right in our democracy. We urge the authorities allow our residents to exercise this right.

In Brooklyn we have had ICE agents who shot an unarmed innocent man during a raid. Police profiling under many names and rationales has been the accepted practice for years. This time the video shows the truth, these police officers have violated their oaths to protect and serve everyone fairly and evenly and without bias. They choked the life out of George Floyd.

We share the pain, sadness and anger of our African American brothers and sisters who have seen another young black man murdered at the hands of the police. There are too many victims whose experiences never made it to the national news or whose stories are not known to America. It is time for justice.