A Message from Our Principals to All Fortress Employees

Yesterday, in a message sent to all Fortress employees, our Principals address recent events and reassert the values and ideals that define our company. We thought it important to share with all of our stakeholders.

June 3, 2020

To All Employees:

As we all know, we have been faced—as individuals, as families, as communities, and as a nation—with profound and unprecedented challenges related to the global pandemic. In our own Fortress family, we have stepped forward to protect the most vulnerable and to support those most affected by the crisis. At the same time, we have all worked to ensure that our commitment to our limited partners and those they represent—including so many who serve on the front lines in combating the coronavirus pandemic—has not wavered in the face of enormous stresses and uncertainty. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do.

Yet even as we begin to see just the early signs of awakening from the nightmare of the coronavirus, we have been tragically reminded that another crisis threatens and challenges our nation. Many of our fellow citizens have long been subjected to discrimination and horrific treatment. Racism has been a stain on our country which has manifested itself in subtle and not so subtle ways. People of color and their many supporters have now taken to the streets to state in the strongest of terms: "No More." And we agree: "No More." We are saddened by the violence that now threatens to confuse and weaken the earnest, right and overdue demand for change, and change now, in our society. This does not diminish the importance of speaking out and acting to peacefully protest actions that, unchallenged, not only conflict with, but weaken and corrode the ideals that we have committed to as a nation.

We encourage you to support change in peaceful ways. Our partner and friend David Mills has served as Co-Chairman of the NAACP Legal Defense for over ten years. In addition, David founded and runs the Stanford Three Strikes Project, which has freed thousands of prisoners around the country who have been subjected to unfair and horribly harsh punishment. Fortress will now make contributions to these and other projects intended to combat the persistent evil of racism. We do this out of recognition that much more needs be said and done to ensure the message "No More" can lead to real and lasting change.

Thank you for all of your efforts as we work together to answer the urgent social and economic challenges facing our nation.

Pete, Wes & Randy

Fortress supports the important work of these and other organizations focused on combating racism in our nation:
The Stanford Three Strikes Project: https://law.stanford.edu/stanford-justice-advocacy-project/
NAACP Legal Defense Fund: https://www.naacpldf.org/