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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Again, Warren squanders another teachable moment and ignores yet another opportunity at unity.

Rochester, NY (July 8, 2020) – On July 6, 2020, in response to President Trump's tweet on the anarchists having no bounds, Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren said, "Despite knowing their flaws, Douglass said of our founders: 'They loved their country better than their own private interests.' We wish you would do the same by providing funding for our cities, uniting us instead of dividing us, and encouraging masks to stop COVID."

Ayesha Kreutz, Founder of the FDFNY says, "First off, it's not the job of the president to fund the cities. That's the job of the state and her own city government. We want less federal intervention not more. Second, was it the job of the president to unite us by sympathizing with those who tore down the statue? Is Mayor Lovely Warren mad at President Trump for not offering a blue ribbon to the destroyers of the Douglass statue. Was he supposed to say, 'Well done good anarchists? Can you take the rest of the Frederick Douglass statues down too?' Third, what does wearing masks have to do with standing against the cultural devastation being wreaked upon our nation by the anarchists rioting through our nation while you're defunding police?"

The movement that Lovely Warren thinks President Trump should encourage is a movement with so little a foundation, it has no choice but to then eliminate the foundation of the system it hopes to replace. They are therefore destroying monuments in honor of the lives of black people, even as most black people would rather not have their help. Normal black folks would much rather be allowed to succeed or fail on their own. Never once do they wish there'd be a bunch of liberal white people destroying their neighborhoods so they can get ahead.

Frederick Douglass said in his famous 4th of July speech, "Those that would have you divided and hating America will always point to how the celebration of Independence was a sham to the slaves...", and it was. But nowhere in that twenty-page speech did he call America or its founding a sham. Instead, he wrote: "Now, take the Constitution according to its plain reading, and I defy the presentation of a single pro-slavery clause in it. On the other hand, it will be found to contain principles and purposes, entirely hostile to the existence of slavery."

Great men have always stood upon the shoulders of the giants before them, and we now stand upon their shoulders. If we let these anarchists tear down the monuments to these great men, we are letting them eat at the foundation of this nation, which Frederick Douglass understood wasn't founded to perpetuate slavery but instead, was founded with the instructions to end slavery.

In the spirit of this great nation and all it stands for, we at FDFNY have pledged to uphold the legacy of Frederick Douglass. We will leverage teachable moments whenever possible and work with law enforcement and community leaders to help educate (and hold accountable when necessary). Our intent is to increase opportunities for conversation as we seek growth, understanding and unity. Visit www.fdfny.org.

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