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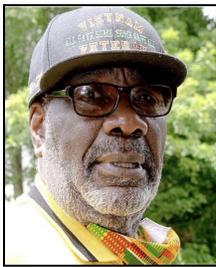
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*A Message From Our Chief*

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters!

I hope each of you are in good health and high spirits. It is unequivocally a blessing to be associated with such a distinguished group of public servants.

Over the past year we have clawed our way through a crucible. Our nation and the world has been tested anew, and although we have risen to the challenge, we have lost some mighty soldiers along this tumultuous journey. There are very few periods in our nation's history that have been more challenging than the one we face now with the COVID-19 pandemic.



We must continue to support each other and empathize with each other. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your time, your support, and your care in making the Black Chief Officers Committee the great organization that it is.

On January 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services issued a declaration of a public health emergency related to COVID-19 and mobilized the Operating Divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency in response to

COVID-19.

According to the "2020 State of Black America" published by the National Urban League, the infection rate for blacks is 62 per 10,000, compared with 23 per 10,000 for whites. Black Americans are infected with COVID-19 at nearly three times the rate of white Americans. Latinos see even more infections at 73 per 10,000. This report, based on data from Johns Hopkins University, also shows black Americans are twice as likely to die from the virus.

Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic will require most Americans to vaccinate against the virus. Unfortunately, previous research suggests that many Americans will refuse vaccination, which will jeopardize their safety as well as their peers.

There are currently FDA-licensed vaccines to prevent COVID-19, and we are encouraging each of you to be vaccinated so we can end the global spread of this disease.

This letter is to certify that the The Black Chief Officers Committee Executive Board endorses the National COVID-19 Vaccine administration with Constellis.

Sincerely,

*Dave Harris*

Chair Black Chief Officers Committee