

## For Such a Time as This

1. Building lives full of the promise of tomorrow requires addressing the underlying systematic inequities highlighted by recent events.

2. True solidarity requires humanity, acceptance and shared experiences, especially during difficult times.

3. This moment is an opportunity to acknowledge the urgent need to fight the racial and economic inequities that we, as a society, have allowed to persist, far too long.

4. To be empowered is to be able to act. Power is the ability, capacity and willingness of a person, a group of people or an institution, to act.

5. To change the system – What is a system? An organized body of people gathered around values and structures and individuals.

6. Values are defined; structures are put in place to implement systems: people are identified to maintain structure/institutions.

7. Systemic Change occurs when value, structures and individuals change.

8. We must create space for ourselves to see through someone else's eyes.

9. What is known as unconscious or implied bias is what hold us back and blocks the best intentions and attempts of so many to achieve meaningful change.

10. It is time for a re-centering in this country on how we are supposed to treat each other. Rather than how we are not supposed to treat each other.

11. Remember you cannot protest an idea you can only counter it with a better idea.

12. Our ability to exercise extreme empathy toward everyone in our communities and beyond, will determine what kind of Houston we leave for other generations to imagine.



- Laurence J. "Larry" Payne

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