

NEWS RELEASE

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M3 Aquatics Addresses Tampering to Breonna Taylor Memorial

CHICAGO, Oct. 7, 2020 — Following tampering to a memorial for Breonna Taylor near a practice site across from the University of Chicago campus, M3 Aquatics extended an invitation to member families to join together in expanding the memorial on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020. Members were invited to arrive at the practice site located in a public park and were provided art supplies to express their grievance for the loss of Taylor's life. Members arrived to create works of art, laid flowers and teammates had conversations with each other about their lived experiences.

At the memorial, Assistant Coach Ben Pearthree posted a sign saying, "I refuse to live in an America where my athletes don't have equal life chances." M3 Aquatics has, and will continue to, reaffirm a commitment made to its membership that it stands strong together in the face of hate and discrimination. Head Coach Kate Chronic has openly led a charge to teach athletes about the effects of structural racism and discrimination. As a component of training, Coach Chronic has offered an open space for athletes to discuss ongoing issues and to express how they are affected by a variety of inequities in our communities.

On Aug. 6, 2020 M3 Aquatics was awarded a charter from USA swimming. The coaching staff of M3 Aquatics united together to form a new club, largely in response to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and built a team focused on providing top-tier training with a robust community engagement component. M3 Aquatics serves athletes and their families from 26 zip codes predominantly from the south side of Chicago. M3 Aquatics is a registered USA Swimming member club, as well as a member of USA Diving and U.S. Masters Swimming.

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