Dear Community,

We were horrified to learn about the violent incident that took place in fall 2021, allegedly involving a volunteer member of our board in a New York City park. Upon learning of these allegations, Lineage Project immediately terminated our relationship with this board member.

It has been a source of anguish for Lineage Project—for us—to be even tangentially connected to such racialized harm. We were heartbroken to witness footage from this incident, and to not be able to know how the young people who were impacted are doing in the aftermath.

For over 20 years, Lineage has brought trauma-sensitive mindfulness programs to system-involved young people across New York City who have experienced interpersonal and systemic harm. All of us at Lineage, our staff and board, do this work because every single young person deserves wellbeing, safety, respect, and dignity. It is impossible for us to overstate how antithetical this incident is to our organization’s values.

This has shaken us to the core—both individually and collectively—in ways that we will not turn away from. While holding our grief, we are resolute in our commitment to our organization’s work in the world—including the deep, internal work required to do it with
integrity. This emergent process, by necessity, has and will continue to involve every member of our staff and board.

As always, we – Lineage’s Board and its Co-Executive Directors – are committed to talking with members of our community who may have feedback, questions, or concerns. We are accountable to you and take this responsibility seriously.

With our care,

Gabby Napolitano, Board Chair                        Jessica Mingus, Co-Executive Director

Erika Brown Lee, Board of Directors                  Gabrielle Prisco, Co-Executive Director

Abja Midha, Board of Directors

Antonia Belt, Board of Directors

Carolina Jannicelli, Board of Directors

Coss Marte, Board of Directors

Raymond Blum, Board Treasurer