As 2020 began, I was filled with hope about the possibilities for fulfilling so many of my priorities as a City Councilmember. I wanted Broomfield to finally celebrate LGBTQ Pride month with a parade and festival. Then the murder of George Floyd happened and my fight for human rights shifted to social justice. We cannot celebrate freedom until we're all equal.

No one could have prepared me for governing during a pandemic. I never would have thought that a small piece of fabric could create such a divide in our community.
The US vs. THEM mentality has overtaken over our country and I fend off the hopelessness daily. Then I remind myself that this is so much bigger than me and the reasons that I ran for office in the first place.

Equality can't and shouldn't wait for things to return to "normal". Normal wasn't working for many vulnerable communities and this pandemic has only served to magnify these inequities.

More than ever, we need to rise to the level of the crisis and focus on racial justice to address social determinants of health that include lack of access to health services, income inequality, low employment and poor working conditions, the digital divide, insufficient educational opportunities, and inferior physical environments.

This global health crisis has revealed so much about our humanity and the need for courageous and compassionate leadership. So I persist because only light can drown out the darkness. I remind myself that we were built to overcome adversity.

No matter what Covid-19 has taken away from us, we will always have the power of hope.

Guyleen Castriotta, Mayor Pro Tem
City and County of Broomfield