

Resolution Against Police Brutality

WHEREAS, unarmed people are increasingly, extra-judicially murdered by police across this country; and

WHEREAS, for far too long, police have been immune from prosecution or accountability when committing these heinous actions; and

WHEREAS, time after time, police use unnecessary force against peaceful protestors, with blatant disregard for civil and constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, police brutality is often targeted at people of color, with extreme prejudice, in contrast to leniency toward crimes committed by white individuals; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, larger city police departments have been provided with military equipment from the federal government and have been emboldened to use this equipment, whether or not it is necessary;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First District Democrats urges lawmakers to implement the following policies, among others, going forward:

- Demilitarize our nation's police departments.
- Require the State Attorney General, within each state, to oversee all prosecution of police at ALL levels.
- Require that police Union Contracts must be negotiated in a way that prevents the purging of misconduct records and reinstatement of fired officers.
- Establish predictive policing on the police to collect and use data on use of force, complaints, and lawsuits to identify the officers most likely to cause harm and prevent future incidents from happening
- Invest in alternatives to police for crime prevention, similar to the mental health first responders in Eugene, Oregon
- Utilize the Department of Justice to investigate police departments with questionable practices or a record of violence/crimes against the people they are hired to serve.
- Mandate that police officers must have their badge numbers prominently displayed at all times.
- Mandate the use of body cams on all law enforcement officers (local police, State Troopers, FBI, ICE, National Guard, etc.) that can not be turned off, and require that all footage be made available for public inspection, while ensuring individual privacy.
- Mandate the hiring of police officers from the residents of the community they serve.
- Compile a national database of disciplined police officers will be compiles so that a member of the public, a future employer, or both, may inquire into the record of specific officers.
- Utilize non-violent methods for controlling peaceful crowds: The use of rubber bullets, pepper ball, paint canisters, flash bangs, and tear gas against unarmed, non-violent people will not be tolerated.
- Prohibit the practice of weapons pointed directly at any person during peaceful protests
- Respect the Freedom of the Press so that the press are not hindered from peacefully covering any incident in any way.
- Require that police officers not interfere with the ability of approved public health workers from providing medical assistance to protesters.
- Assure public accountability, freedom of speech and freedom of the press by prohibiting officers from preventing any person from recording any police action.
- Hold officers involved in a fatal encounter to the same law and accountability as any other person, including suspension, charged and held in custody; the criteria to be the utilized would be the same as that for any civilian suspect committing the alleged crime (whether murder, physical or sexual assault, accessory to a crime, etc.), pending investigation.

- Require a database of arrest history, violence and complaints (such as for unwarranted stops) to be monitored and trigger investigations of those officers found to target persons of color.
- Establish policies to ensure that no police officer will initiate or escalate tensions or violence at protests; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that police departments are urged to establish policies to;

- Ban chokeholds and strangleholds,
- Require de-escalation,
- Require warning before shooting,
- Exhaust all other means before shooting,
- Require officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers,
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles,
- Require use of continuum to limit the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to different types of resistance, and
- Require officers to report each time they use force, or threaten to use force, against any person;¹ and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all law enforcement entities to:

- Establish and implement policies to end racial profiling and the disproportionately high imprisonment of people of color
- Provide ongoing training for law enforcement and corrections officers to identify mental and behavioral health issues and then safely, respectfully and humanely address those situations
- Provide ongoing training on anti-racism, anti-bias, and diversity for all employees in the criminal legal system
- Utilize healthcare professionals or trained social workers to be called in to help police de-escalate situations involving mental health crises; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to the First Legislative District's Legislators, the Governor of the state of Washington, the Washington State National Democratic delegation, King and Snohomish County Councils, all local law enforcement jurisdictions, and the King and Snohomish County Prosecutors; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Snohomish County Democrats, King County Democrats, and Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at their next meeting.

Submitted by Tyler Kelson, June 2, 2020.

Recommended DO PASS by the 1st LD Democrats Issues Committee, June 4, 2020.