

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Whereas for over 400 years on this continent, a legacy of oppression and inequity for black Americans has been fostered that continues to be expressed in explicit and implicit ways, including pervasive systemic racism in institutions of health, education, housing, law enforcement, and justice, among others;

Whereas historically and systemically, since the time of slavery and beyond, policing has been used as a means of control and containment of black Americans, with the motto “To Protect and Serve” seeming to refer mainly to white Americans;

Whereas the increased militarization of the civilian police over the last several decades, both in tactics and equipment through the Department of Defense 1033 program, has eroded the trust and oversight of the communities they serve, and police use of excessive force often lacks accountability or consequences, resulting in black Americans being 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be killed by the police; and

Whereas a long list of horrific and shocking killings of Black men and women by police officers has been reported to the public, including those of Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Stephon Clark, Jonathan Ferrell, Ezell Ford, Botham Jean, Tamir Rice (age 12), Eric Garner, Laquan McDonald, Keith Lamont Scott, and Breonna Taylor, culminating in the unconscionable public murder of George Floyd and marking a turning point in the national debate about the role of the police force; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, excessive force techniques, including but not limited to chokeholds, carotid holds, and no-knock warrants should be banned, and a duty to intervene and report misconduct should be required of all police officers;

RESOLVED, that (i) any Qualified Immunity laws shielding police officers from prosecution shall be revoked, (ii) the state attorneys general should

serve as the independent prosecutors for killings by police instead of local district attorneys and prosecutors who work with the police department, and (iii) a national database of police misconduct and prior disciplinary records should be established; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local, state, and federal officials engage in a substantive reimagining and shrinking of the role of law enforcement in public safety, recognizing the dangerous effects of police militarization and a misguided reliance on police to handle social issues such as mental health, addiction, and poverty, while reinvesting resources into other community programs that are trained and equipped to deal with them.

Unanimously approved by the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County
June 10, 2020