



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

ACTION CALENDAR  
April 20, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila (Author)

Subject: Requesting the California State Legislature to introduce actions to value human life and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a resolution requesting the California State Legislature to introduce legislation incorporating recommendations from the community to value human life and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality.
2. Send copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and Governor Gavin Newsom.

#### POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On March 8, 2021, the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity and Community Committee adopted the following action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/Bartlett) to forward the item to Council with a negative recommendation given that there are a number of questions as to some of the points of the resolution including the purview of the Legislature, legal questions, and feasibility. The Committee recommends that the Council refer to the Public Safety Committee to consider the state Police Officer's Bill of Rights and possible subsequent action by the City Council. Further, that the office of Councilmember Taplin will look into specific state bills on police reform and public safety issues to determine which bills warrant a letter of support from the City Council.

Vote: All Ayes.

#### BACKGROUND

With the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, we at the same time are reeling from the devastating effects and challenges of COVID-19 that has disproportionately affected the black community at high rates.

We must now move from protests to substantive policy change. We must be able to respond to our children and their children's children when they ask what we did during these troubled times to impact the community and make a difference?

The Berkeley City Council has a past record of supporting legislation to value human life, and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality.

In December 2018, in the nearby City of Richmond, then Councilmembers Jovanka Beckles and Eduardo Martinez introduced similar legislation requesting the State Legislature to

introduce legislation based on recommendations brought forward by the community. The legislation was approved by the Richmond City Council and sent to the State Legislature.

Police officers can occasionally make poor choices that result in implementing harsh enforcement policies, often in extremely stressful and dangerous situations.

The City Council envisions a future where violent encounters between police and civilians are extremely rare.

An alarming number of people are killed by police every year, the majority of those victims were unarmed or were killed for behaviors due to issues that have included mental health that should not have resulted in death.

Black and Latino teenage males are more likely to be killed by police than white teenage males and unarmed Black and Latino men are more likely to be killed by police than unarmed white men.

Aggressive policing and lack of community representation on police forces, often negatively impact people of color, leading to the use of racial profiling and disproportionate number of deaths of people of color at the hands of the police.

Police departments cannot investigate themselves, and there is a long list of no conviction cases.

There are too many cases where charges are not filed by top officials despite physical evidence and eyewitness testimony, contradicting the police department's statement of events.

In honor of many who have lost their lives advocating for human rights, the City Council supports human rights.

This action is the first step meant to restore integrity in policing and promote accountability for the public.

The following legislative actions require the State Legislature to introduce and act upon in order to make much needed change to save lives:

1. Repeal The California Police Officer Bill of Rights
2. Approve ACA-5: Repeal of Prop 209 that would ensure that fair hiring practices in California are implemented, so that African Americans can have access to public jobs.
3. Establish protection against profiling, and offer alternatives to mental health crises so that they do not have a fatal end.
4. Create a Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations for African Americans.
5. A Review of each jurisdiction's use of force policy and review of its alignment with AB 392: Peace Officers Deadly Force.
6. Allocate yearly funding and resources to ensure that African Americans in the state have access to culturally-based and responsive mental health services.
7. Establish stronger civilian oversight boards that have disciplinary power, so that law enforcement officers are accountable to the communities in which they serve;
8. Reduce the historically high levels of the prison population, through the implementation of community-based policing, smarter sentencing, and better post-incarceration programs for those returning to society, as well as training law enforcement, to better

- identify mental illness and reducing over forced approach to all Americans;
9. Ensure that the investigation process includes an immediate toxicology exam on all parties involved, including the officers, and unedited civilian video recordings should be considered evidence;
  10. Police unions should bear the cost of the paid administrative leave in the form of malpractice insurance;
  11. Allocate funding to train police to better identify and confront these problems using de-escalation tactics, and keep track of results through frequent data collection and analysis;
  12. All officers of the law receive training to reduce excessive force, and training to assist with interaction with the mentally ill;
  13. Train law enforcement officials to appropriately identify and address mental issues and those with addiction, with the aim of guiding members of the said population to treatment programs instead of jail when applicable;
  14. An officer should be placed on administrative leave without pay during the investigation process;
  15. An officer that is under investigation would not be eligible for CalPERS Disability Insurance or similar benefits as its pre-funded by tax dollars;
  16. Tax dollars should not cover the cost of an officer's legal defense when they fire upon an unarmed civilian, who is not in the act of committing a felony offense;
  17. Police unions should cover the cost of legal defense, malpractice insurance (similar to a doctor);
  18. Police officers who fire upon an unarmed civilian, who is not in the act of committing a felony offense should be reprimanded and prosecuted.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Protecting our communities during this climate and health crisis is an act of environmental sustainability.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF BERKELEY REQUESTING THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS TO VALUE HUMAN LIFE AND TO CONDEMN RACIAL INJUSTICE AND POLICE BRUTALITY

WHEREAS, For several weeks, African Americans have been processing the recent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor while at the same time, reeling from the devastating effects and challenges of COVID-19 that has disproportionately affected the black community at high rates. Then came the horrific death of George Floyd, in full view of the world that stunned many, adding to the community's unrelenting trauma and grief and disgust; and

WHEREAS, We must now move from protests to substantive policy change. We must be able to respond to our children and their children's children when they ask what we did during these troubled times to impact the community and make a difference; and

WHEREAS, The Berkeley City Council has a past record of supporting legislation to value human life, and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is in support of the State legislature introducing legislation to support and value human life, and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality; and

WHEREAS, tension between police and communities throughout the United States has increased over many years after a series of high profile cases of police brutality and racial profiling; and

WHEREAS, police officers can occasionally make poor choices that result in implementing harsh enforcement policies, often in extremely stressful and dangerous situations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council envisions a future where violent encounters between police and civilians are extremely rare; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of people are killed by police every year, the majority of those victims were unarmed or were killed for behaviors due to issues that have included mental health that should not have resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, Black and Latino teenage males are more likely to be killed by police than white teenage males and unarmed Black and Latino men are more likely to be killed by police than unarmed white men; and

WHEREAS, aggressive policing and lack of community representation on police forces, often negatively impact people of color, leading to the use of racial profiling and disproportionate number of deaths of people of color at the hands of the police; and

WHEREAS, police departments cannot investigate themselves, and there is a long list of no conviction cases; and

WHEREAS, there are too many cases where charges are not filed by top officials despite physical evidence and eyewitness testimony, contradicting the police department's statement of events; and

WHEREAS, in honor of many who have lost their lives advocating for human rights, the City Council supports human rights; and

WHEREAS, this action is the first step meant to restore integrity in policing and promote accountability for the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Berkeley requests the State Legislature to introduce and approve the following legislative actions:

1. Repeal The California Police Officer Bill of Rights
2. Approve ACA-5: Repeal of Prop 209 that would ensure that fair hiring practices in California are implemented, so that African Americans can have access to public jobs.
3. Establish protection against profiling, and offer alternatives to mental health crises so that they do not have a fatal end.
4. Create a Task Force to Study and Develop Reparations for African Americans.
5. A Review of each jurisdiction's use of force policy and review of its alignment with AB 392: Peace Officers Deadly Force.
6. Allocate yearly funding and resources to ensure that African Americans in the state have access to culturally-based and responsive mental health services.
7. Establish stronger civilian oversight boards that have disciplinary power, so that law enforcement officers are accountable to the communities in which they serve;
8. Reduce the historically high levels of the prison population, through the implementation of community-based policing, smarter sentencing, and better post-incarceration programs for those returning to society, as well as training law enforcement, to better identify mental illness and reducing over forced approach to all Americans;
9. Ensure that the investigation process includes an immediate toxicology exam on all parties involved, including the officers, and unedited civilian video recordings should be considered evidence;
10. Police unions should bear the cost of the paid administrative leave in the form of malpractice insurance;
11. Allocate funding to train police to better identify and confront these problems using de-escalation tactics, and keep track of results through frequent data collection and analysis;
12. All officers of the law receive training to reduce excessive force, and training to assist with interaction with the mentally ill;
13. Train law enforcement officials to appropriately identify and address mental issues and those with addiction, with the aim of guiding members of the said population to treatment programs instead of jail when applicable;
14. An officer should be placed on administrative leave without pay during the investigation process;
15. An officer that is under investigation would not be eligible for CalPERS Disability Insurance or similar benefits as its pre-funded by tax dollars;
16. Tax dollars should not cover the cost of an officer's legal defense when they fire upon an unarmed civilian, who is not in the act of committing a felony offense;
17. Police unions should cover the cost of legal defense, malpractice insurance (similar to a doctor);
18. Police officers who fire upon an unarmed civilian, who is not in the act of committing a felony offense should be reprimanded and prosecuted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution is sent to State Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, and United States Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

