

BY THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENHANCED POLICE POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, CITY OF DETROIT AND ACROSS THE NATION IN RESPONSE TO THE NATIONWIDE PROTEST AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY AND INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM

WHEREAS, The flashes of camera phones have shined a bright light on a dark history of police brutality in America. In recent days, amidst the coronavirus stay at home orders, protests have erupted across the nation. Too often the violent and callous actions of some police officers are disregarded, improperly reported, concealed or deliberately not penalized, prompting a response from Michigan elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jeff Irwin, along with several other legislators, introduced Senate Bill 945 on May 28, 2020; which would amend the “Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards Act” (PA 203 of 1965) in an attempt to address police brutality and minimize the probability of future cases; and

WHEREAS, If passed, Senate Bill 945 would require all licensed and incoming law enforcement officers to undergo training for identifying potential implicit biases, techniques to de-escalate confrontations, develop methods to recognize mental health complications, and procedural justice strategies (resolving disputes and allocating resources fairly) as a part of a police officer’s certification process, beginning January 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, USA Today revealed that during the past decade, there have been about 85,000 cops investigated for police misconduct, including nearly 23,000 excessive force investigations. Approximately, a little over 1,000 people are killed by police each year. However, less than 1% led to an indictment by a grand jury and 97% were not charged at all by a prosecuting attorney, according to the Washington Post. The U.S Department of Justice reported a staggering, 84% of officers have witnessed a fellow officer using more force than necessary in 2015; and

WHEREAS, 2019 statistics show, minorities, most frequently Black people are disproportionately victims of fatal police interactions.

Fatal Police Encounter:

- 1.3% Native American
- 3.1% Asian
- 18.5% Hispanic
- 31.8% Black
- 44.9% White

U.S Population Size:

- 0.9% Native American
- 4.7% Asian
- 16.4% Hispanic
- 12.2% Black
- 63.7% White; and

WHEREAS, An officer is in the position to make fatal decisions in a split second. The aforementioned statistics reveal that something must be done to prevent law enforcement from becoming judge, jury, and executioner. It has been considered that more training can equip officers with techniques to avoid violent or fatal confrontations. This has been proven true in Dallas, TX, where police departments have implemented mandatory de-escalation training; resulting in a 60% drop in complaints against the police, 30% drop in police assaults, and 40% drop in police shootings between 2009-2014; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council asserts its commitment to the welfare of its citizens by cultivating an environment and approving public policies that promote the progress and safety of all the citizens of Detroit **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, Implementing standards for training at the state level will ensure a universal standard that will begin the process of dismantling the cultural divide between the police and the citizens they have taken an oath to serve and protect. For that reason, the Detroit City Council wholeheartedly declares its unwavering support for Senate Bill 945, for the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards to provide guidance to law enforcement agencies on continuing education, including diversity and implicit racial bias training, and urging law enforcement agencies to implement duty to intervene policies and for the Michigan Legislature to reenact legislation to allow municipalities to require public safety officers to live within the communities that they work in; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council urges the Board of Police Commissioners to adopt the following policies including the Campaign Zero #8CANTWAIT police policies:

- Ban chokeholds and strangleholds;
- Require officers to de-escalate situations before using force;
- Require officers to give a verbal warning before shooting;
- Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before using deadly force;
- Require officers to intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force (Duty to intervene);
- Ban officers from shooting at moving vehicles;
- Restrict high level of force to only the most extreme situations;
- Require officers to report all uses of force including threatening civilians with a fire-arm;
- Require officers to be trained to identify and recognize those who are Deaf/ Hard of Hearing;
- Board of Police Commissioners monthly review of body cam and police car recordings as a form of accountability and oversight; **ADDITIONALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council supports the “Justice in Policing Act” establishing national guidelines for the regulation of police conduct in response to national protest against police brutality against black Americans. The act includes but is not limited to the following national guidelines for police conduct:

- Banning Police Chokeholds;
- Revise the federal criminal police misconduct statute to make it easier to prosecute officers who are involved in misconduct knowingly or with reckless disregard;
- Amend qualified immunity protections for police to enable individuals to recover damages when law enforcement officers violation their constitutional rights;
- Provide greater oversight and transparency of police behavior
- Grant subpoena power to the Justice Department to conduct “pattern and practice” investigations of potential misconduct and help states conduct independent

investigations;

- Create a National Police Misconduct Registry database to try to prevent officers from transferring from one department to another with past misconduct undetected; **FINALLY**

RESOLVED, the City Clerk's office is directed to send a copy of this resolution to House and Senate Democrats, The House Judiciary Committee, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Jeff Irwin, the Michigan State Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, Mayor Mike Duggan, the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards, the Board of Police Commissioners and Detroit Police Chief James Craig.