

Resolution #2
In Support of the Black Lives Matter movement
Adopted March 21, 2015

WHEREAS:

It is unknown how many people in the United States are shot or killed by law enforcement each year as law enforcement agencies are not required to report the number of people shot by police officers each year; and

WHEREAS:

Black Lives Matter is a call to action in response to the events surrounding the death of Trayvon Martin in 2013. It has since grown as a result of subsequent killings of unarmed Black people by police officers around the country. These include, but are not limited to, the deaths of Pamir Rice, Rekia Boyd, Michael Brown, John Crawford, and Eric Garner; and

WHEREAS:

The Black Lives Matter movement acknowledges that all lives matter; however, it also recognizes that in the United States Black lives are systematically devalued and targeted for destruction through the denial of voting rights and representation in government, mass incarceration, racial profiling, housing discrimination, and a system of policing that functions in a discriminatory way; and

WHEREAS:

Official data shows that over half of those killed by police in recent years have been Black or Latino; and

WHEREAS:

Young Black men are also 21 times more likely to be killed by cops than young white men; and

WHEREAS:

Officers involved in these killings are rarely indicted, much less convicted, for excessive use of force; and

WHEREAS:

Racist violence is a deep-rooted part of this country's history, and substantial nationwide reform of the policing and court systems is the first step to changing this awful reality. Black Lives Matter is a movement that addresses and champions these changes; and

WHEREAS:

From the inception of this country, Black lives have not mattered except in the form of property or labor and have been denied their humanity as a part of the democratic experience in America; and

WHEREAS:

Black Lives Matter is not the lament of a disaffected minority but the mantra of a nation awakened to and tired of the injustice and brutality faced by their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS:

Black Lives Matter is a multiracial grassroots movement, led by Black people, that challenges the killings of often unarmed Black Americans by police and the pervasive, systemic racism that continues to fundamentally shape American society; and

WHEREAS:

The movement is calling for a number of reforms, including the "demilitarization of local law enforcement, a comprehensive review of systemic abuses by local police departments and the repurposing of law enforcement funds to support community based alternatives to incarceration".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 recognizes that Black people are criminalized, racially profiled, disproportionately killed by police, and overrepresented in prisons and jails; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 declares its support for the national Black Lives Matter movement, and will continue to work with like-minded organizations in the community to help educate others about the conditions of Black people in America.

SUBMITTED BY:

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930