

**Resolution 2020-3 in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement and Increased Safety
for County Residents
adopted June 18, 2020**

WHEREAS African Americans are being murdered and brutalized with near impunity by increasingly militarized police forces, plunging the citizenry into ever growing levels of outrage and frustration, and inspiring the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and peaceful protest as we mourn the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Stephon Clark, Chinedu Okobi, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and many others; and

WHEREAS continuing systemic and institutionalized racism against African Americans has produced a vicious cycle of social and economic struggle where black Americans own one tenth the wealth of white Americans, where persistent economic, housing and labor market discrimination and segregation have severely limited African Americans' access to health care, education, and opportunities for upward mobility; and

WHEREAS nowhere is the disparity in social and economic justice more apparent than in the United States' criminal justice system, where African Americans are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of white Americans and six times the rate when the charges are drug related, black defendants are more than 25% more likely than white defendants to be held pretrial, and most disturbing: black Americans are two and a half times as likely as white Americans to be killed by police officers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee strongly affirms its support of the Black Lives Matter movement and our condemnation of police brutality, and we thank our California legislative representatives—Senator Jerry Hill, Senator Scott Weiner, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Marc Berman and Assemblymember Phil Ting—and our US Congress representatives—Senator Kamala Harris, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo—for their statements of support, and strongly urge all our elected legislators to enact police reform legislation, including the proposed HR 7120 Justice in Policing Act, in order to reshape the future of public safety with justice for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee calls upon County police departments and the Sheriff's Department to update department policies to: revise hiring and review practices; emphasize de-escalation tactics; expand officer training dealing with sensitive issues including racial bias and the policing of lawful, peaceful demonstrations and protests; and again urges the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, recognizing its responsibility for the safety of all County residents, to take action to introduce an amendment to the County Charter to create a law enforcement Civilian Oversight Commission, with subpoena power.

Alexis Lewis, District 2

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