

DRAFT – 1st Reading
A RESOLUTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON DEMOCRATS
WCDR 2015-008

Regarding Police Use of Unnecessary Deadly Force Against Minority and the Behaviorally Challenged Populations

WHEREAS the deadly force outcomes of fatal shootings throughout the cities of the United States significantly and disproportionately affect minority communities, especially Black Americans and behaviorally challenged populations, and

WHEREAS the Black populations served by majority White police departments reflect heightened racial inequality which results in increased use of unnecessary deadly force by law enforcement, and

WHEREAS culturally diverse leadership in law enforcement is an effective means to reduce the unnecessary use of deadly force in police actions against Black, other minority, and behaviorally challenged populations, and

WHEREAS evidentiary findings from many studies show that use of deadly force and abusive treatment lead to a disproportionate number of deaths among young Black men and women, and

WHEREAS Black citizens are stopped, abused, shot, beaten or killed more often under nonthreatening circumstances by law enforcement for reasons that would not justify violent police reactions when compared to White citizens, and

WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court has ruled as unconstitutional the use of deadly force in situations involving unarmed, non-threatening, and/or fleeing individuals thought to be felony suspects (links below).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY THAT:

1. We urge all law enforcement to use body cameras in accordance with state guidance.
2. We urge our state and federal legislators to enact policies and programs that ensure that police are trained in the recognition and understanding of the impacts that racist behavior has on the minority communities they serve.
3. We urge the legislature to adopt policies and rules that ensure that use of deadly force in police enforcement actions will be an *in extremis* response, and not the primary or predominant response.
4. We support the unobstructed right of citizens to record such incidences without the threat of having images seized, destroyed, or altered in any way.
5. We urge our legislators to allocate sufficient funding to ensure that all law enforcement personnel statewide receive training in situation de-escalation, alternatives to violence, and the controlled and limited use of deadly force.

U.S. Supreme Court. (1985). *Tennessee V. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985).

U.S. Supreme Court. (1989). *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Retrieved from

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=471&invol=1>

Originated: Glendora Claybrooks, P&RC Member, May, 2015.

Approved as amended – WashCoDems Platform Committee, June 9, 2015