

# A Resolution of the Democratic Party of Washington County

Resolution 2017-045

## Regarding Police De-Escalation Training

**WHEREAS** ARTICLE 8 JUSTICE, Plank 9 of the 2016 Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) Platform states: “*We believe police departments should train and equip officers to deal with people in crisis with respect. Deadly force should always be a last resort. Police officers should be held accountable to professional standards that emphasize non-violent methods to resolve conflict and ensure offender compliance and safety.*”, and

**WHEREAS** Recent highly publicized killings by police officers, such as those of Tamir Rice, Charleena Lyles, and Philando Castile have created a perception that American Police Officers are too quick to resort to deadly force, and

**WHEREAS** This perception, regardless of whether it is representative of most police officers, erodes public trust in the police force, leading to a decrease in co-operation and safety, and

**WHEREAS** De-escalation training has been effective where it has been implemented, such as Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Dallas, and San Francisco, and

**WHEREAS** Oregon’s Board on Public Safety Standards and Training (BPSST) does not currently mandate any amount of de-escalation training, and

**WHEREAS** The Task Force on 21st Century Policing strongly recommends police departments around the country cultivate a “guardian mindset”, and specifically suggests de-escalation training as part of that reform, and

**WHEREAS** Knowledge of de-escalation techniques would give police officers additional tools to resolve dangerous situations with no loss of life, and would in no way prevent officers from using deadly force on the rare occasion that it is necessary.

**THEREFORE** be it resolved by the Democratic Party of Washington County (DPWC), Oregon:

1. We urge the Oregon BPSST to mandate effective annual de-escalation training for all law enforcement officers.
2. In the event that the BPSST does not mandate effective de-escalation training, we urge our state legislators to enact legislation that accomplishes those aims.
3. esolution is to be forwarded to the BPSST, the DPO, all Washington County Legislators, and all local police and sheriff jurisdictions in Washington County.

*Resolution submitted: 6/4/2017 – Nathan Hunter; amended & approved for 1<sup>st</sup> reading by P&RC 6/6/2017(w/ amendments 6/22/17).*