

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE PROCLAIMING BLACK LIVES MATTER

WHEREAS, recent national events involving police brutality and misconduct have shed light on a deeper issue in America: systemic racism. It has plagued America for centuries; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation have come together to mourn the loss of George Floyd and honor his memory. The unlawful, tragic, and unacceptable killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis Police have sparked mass protests and demonstrations calling for change and elimination of systemic racism not only in Minneapolis, but in all communities in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the recent national events have raised awareness about injustices that exist at the intersections of race, class, and gender; including mass incarceration, police brutality, poverty, unaffordable housing, income disparity, homophobia, unjust immigration policies, gender inequality, and poor access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, we denounce violence of any kind against people and property, but we also recognize the urgency of this situation. Cities must take the lead in structural reform to ensure that black, brown, indigenous, and other communities of color are safe and equal members of society. Cities must take the lead in reaffirming public trust in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of government to protect citizens and uphold civil rights. City officials must work to ensure that the rights of all people are upheld and respected. Reform is necessary to ensure that not one more person falls victim to racial profiling and racial violence by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, statements are important, but actions are critical. How we move forward will indicate our true intent and the sincerity of our respect and love for others. Recent events have provided this opportunity for growth, appreciating and embracing those in the Black community and other People of Color;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE THAT:

The City of San José stands in solidarity with its black residents and communities of color and it is committed to taking the following action:

1. Review law enforcement practices within the police department and dismantle biased systems that hurt our communities of color.
2. Be transparent while reviewing issues involving police misconduct and keep residents engaged and informed in the process. Community oversight is a crucial component in rebuilding trust between impacted communities and police departments.
3. Create spaces dedicated to listening about violence against black lives and taking action to address concerns raised by citizen organizations, such as Black Lives Matter.
4. Encourage the Police Department to hire officers that reflect the communities it serves.
5. Adopt the pillars of 21st Century Policing and evaluate Use of Force policies and practices in our police department to ensure that all residents are being treated fairly and with dignity.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DISQUALIFIED:

SAM LICCARDO
Mayor

ATTEST:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk