



CHAIR:
Maria Mitchell, *Ward 5*

May 19, 2021

VICE CHAIR:
Emily Peterson, *Ward 3*

COMMISSIONERS:
Babatope Adedayo, *Ward 5*

**RE: City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
Resolution Anniversary of George Floyd murder**

Tyler Blackmon, *Ward 3*

Erin Hayes, *Ward 2*

Muria Kruger, *Ward 2*

Kaliah Linear, *Ward 1*

The City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission mourns the death and celebrates the life of George Floyd, a life cut short by an act of horrific and unlawful violence perpetrated by a law enforcement officer.

Janessa Marquette, *Ward 2*

On the first anniversary of George Floyd’s death, and in recognition of his life, we make the following resolution:

Erika Sanders, *Ward 4*

Christopher Smith, *Ward 2*

WHEREAS, George Floyd was a human being with inherent value and dignity, deserving of respect.

Jim Thayer, *Ward 1*

Eva Wailes, *Ward 4*

WHEREAS, George Floyd moved to Minnesota for access to opportunities and a high quality of life.

James Wilkinson, *Ward 3*

WHEREAS, George Floyd was a member of our community, and therefore his wellbeing was connected to the wellbeing of all.

WHEREAS, George Floyd was deeply beloved by his family and friends.

WHEREAS, George Floyd, a Black man, was killed on Memorial Day, May 25, 2020, by Derek Chauvin, a white Minneapolis police officer, while three other officers participated.

WHEREAS, the murder of George Floyd and its aftermath caused deep trauma and harm to our community.

WHEREAS, our community is still working for justice and healing following the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent uprising.

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WHEREAS, Black people are three times more likely to be killed by law enforcement officers than white people.¹

VICE CHAIR:

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WHEREAS, for Black men, the lifetime risk of being killed by a police officer is 1 in 1,000.²

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WHEREAS, between March 29, 2021, when testimony began in Derek Chauvin's trial, and April 17, 2021, just prior to closing arguments, at least 64 people were killed by law enforcement officers in the United States, with Black and Latino people representing more than half of those killed.³

WHEREAS, it is exceedingly rare for police officers to be charged and convicted when they kill civilians while on duty, no matter the circumstances.

WHEREAS, residents of our metropolitan area are harmed on a daily basis by systemic and individual forms of racism in law enforcement, and all of us have an obligation to actively combat racism.

WHEREAS, we recognize that George Floyd should be remembered not only for the manner of his death, but for the fullness of his humanity.

WHEREAS, grief and pain may be transformed into action and meaningful change.

WHEREAS, Black lives matter.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The City of Saint Paul Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission calls for:

1. Ongoing evaluation of how City resources other than police officers may be utilized to respond to non-emergency needs of residents.
2. Ongoing evaluation of how the Saint Paul Police Department responds to calls involving residents experiencing mental health crises.

¹ <https://www.keranews.org/2020-08-06/who-is-most-at-risk-for-police-violence>

² <https://www.statnews.com/2021/04/20/for-people-of-color-where-is-our-pause-from-being-killed-by-police/>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/17/us/police-shootings-killings.html>

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3. More specifically, in reference to numbers 1 and 2 above, we call for an end to armed police officer responses to priority four and priority five 9-1-1 calls in the City of Saint Paul, with consideration of the emerging recommendations of the City of Saint Paul Community First Public Safety Commission for alternatives to armed police officer responses.⁴
4. The prohibition of any Saint Paul Police Department staff person or officer from belonging to or affiliating with, supporting, or advocating for white supremacist groups, causes, or ideologies.
5. The collection and annual publication of statistical data regarding incidents where Minnesota police officers discharge weapons and/or civilians are injured in encounters with police officers.
6. The establishment of an independent statewide oversight and investigation body on the use of excessive force by law enforcement.
7. The establishment of a statewide police accountability system that would set and enforce higher standards of law enforcement conduct.
8. The creation of powerful incentives for officers to live in the communities they serve by lifting the state ban on local-residency requirements.
9. The Saint Paul Police Department to continually review and update the Saint Paul Police Department manual and its standards and instructions to officers with respect to use of force.
10. The Saint Paul Police Department and other police agencies operating in Saint Paul to execute law enforcement duties equitably at all times, but particularly in times of civil unrest, both exercising restraint and acting quickly to ensure the safety of all persons, especially in our poorest and most vulnerable neighborhoods.
11. The City of Saint Paul to work with State of Minnesota legislators regarding meaningful police reform legislation such as HF 2539, which would allow police officers to issue sign-and-release citations instead of arresting people who have missed court dates for low-level offenses. In addition, broader police reforms such

⁴ <https://citizensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Town-Hall-Series-2-FOR-PUBLIC-POSTING.pdf>

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as ending qualified immunity and requiring police officers to carry malpractice or liability insurance should be explored.

VICE CHAIR:
Emily Peterson, *Ward 3*

12. Saint Paul Police Department, the Ramsey County Sheriff and the Metro Transit Police Department immediately to adopt and implement the following Recommendations of the Working Group on Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounters⁴ and rapidly follow through on other Recommendations:

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Tyler Blackmon, *Ward 3*

Erin Hayes, *Ward 2*

All police agencies should adopt use-of-force policies that, at a minimum:

Muria Kruger, *Ward 2*

Kaliah Linear, *Ward 1*

Janessa Marquette, *Ward 2*

Erika Sanders, *Ward 4*

Christopher Smith, *Ward 2*

Jim Thayer, *Ward 1*

Eva Wailes, *Ward 4*

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- Make sanctity of life a core organizational value;
- Require officers to de-escalate when such effort does not compromise officer safety;
- Require force used by officers to be reasonable, necessary, and proportionate;
- Hold officers accountable to use sound tactics, such as time, distance, and cover, to reduce the need to use force;
- Require officers to intervene when witnessing unreasonable use of force;
- Require officers to report all incidents of unreasonable use of force to a supervisor;
- Require officers to render immediate medical aid to injured victims, including those injured during an officer-involved injury, as soon as safely possible.

This Resolution is directed and shall be delivered to The Honorable Mayor Melvin Carter; Members of the City Council of the City of Saint Paul; Saint Paul Chief of Police Todd Axtell; Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners Toni Carter; Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher; Chief of Metro Transit Police Eddie Frizell; and Chair of the Metropolitan Council Charlie Zelle.