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**LABOR FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICING**

1    **WHEREAS:**

2            On May 25, 2020 a white Minneapolis police officer killed 46-year-old George Floyd by  
3 kneeling on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds while he pleaded to be allowed to breathe  
4 and called for his mother; and

5    **WHEREAS:**

6            Hundreds of AFSCME members and other union families live in the neighborhood where  
7 George Floyd was murdered; and

8    **WHEREAS:**

9            Communities around the country and around the world erupted in grief and rage, demanding  
10 justice for George Floyd, Ahmed Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, and countless more. The protests have  
11 been large, multiracial, insistent, and composed largely of the working class. They have been held  
12 not only in big cities, but also in small towns across the U.S. In many cities and towns, AFSCME  
13 members have been on the front lines of the protests. The Movement for Black Lives and other  
14 organizations involved in the protests have broad pro-worker agendas; and

15   **WHEREAS:**

16            AFSCME declared at our 2016 International Convention, that “While our nation has made  
17 significant progress since the days when Memphis sanitation workers carried “I am a Man” signs, the  
18 struggle for racial justice and equity continues. We remember our nation’s troubled history on race  
19 and the struggles of previous generations. Many of our communities are still trying to heal from the  
20 scars of the past. The experience of African Americans with our economy and criminal justice system  
21 is often uniquely negative. The phrase “black lives matter” is not intended to communicate that black  
22 lives matter more than other lives, but is a rallying cry for a community that feels the impact of  
23 decades-long systemic oppression. In the face of such oppression, AFSCME affirms that black lives  
24 do matter;” and

25 **WHEREAS:**

26 AFSCME declared at our 2018 International Convention, that “Much progress has been made  
27 during the past 50 years, but much more remains to be done. The struggle for justice inseparably  
28 binds the labor and civil rights movements. As Dr. King said to civil rights leaders, “Our needs are  
29 identical with labor's needs: Decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old-age security,  
30 health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children,  
31 and respect in the community;” and

32 **WHEREAS:**

33 AFSCME President Lee Saunders released the following statement on the death of George  
34 Floyd: “The killing of George Floyd was a shocking and heinous act of violence that demands  
35 accountability. There can be no public safety unless innocent, unarmed African Americans feel safe  
36 walking the streets in their communities. As both a union that represents several thousand law  
37 enforcement officers and a union that has long been in the vanguard of the struggle for civil rights,  
38 AFSCME believes we cannot be forced to choose between racial justice or effective policing. A free,  
39 healthy society can and must have both;” and

40 **WHEREAS:**

41 AFSCME has repeatedly gone on record (with International Convention resolutions in 2002,  
42 2004, and 2014) in support of school boards that are elected from the communities that they serve. In  
43 2014, International Convention delegates declared, “we advocate for elected school boards in every  
44 municipality that can fairly and fully represent the communities that attend these public schools and  
45 has the greatest stake in the successful outcome of delivering a quality education for all;” and

46 **WHEREAS:**

47 The same principal of support for community control of our schools should be applied to  
48 community control of policing. We must work for a world where those most impacted in our  
49 communities control the laws, institutions, and policies that are meant to serve us; and

50 **WHEREAS:**

51 Community organizations in Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Jacksonville,  
52 and other municipalities around the country have been organizing for years to demand elected  
53 Civilian Police Accountability Councils (CPAC), which would provide direct community oversight  
54 of policing in the same way that elected school boards have direct community oversight of our  
55 schools. In Chicago, over 60,000 people have signed petitions in support of CPAC, and 19  
56 alderpeople have gone on record in support of CPAC. CPAC has also been endorsed by AFSCME  
57 Locals 3800, 2822, Chicago Teachers Union, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Chicago, Coalition

58 of Labor Union Women Chicago, SEIU Health Care Illinois/Indiana, SEIU Local 1, SEIU Local 73,  
59 Fight For \$15, UIC Graduate Employees Organization, United Electrical Workers Region 4, United  
60 Working Families and others.

61 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

62 That AFSCME declares our support for Civilian Police Accountability Councils as proposed  
63 by the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression as a concrete embodiment of the  
64 demand for community control of policing and public security; and

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

66 That AFSCME will mobilize our members to participate in lobbying and other efforts to  
67 advance these demands and support our Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) members  
68 and communities; and

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

70 That AFSCME calls for a thoroughgoing review of law enforcement policies and practices by  
71 federal, state, and local authorities, followed by concrete and systemic reforms to ensure that all  
72 people in our society are granted equal treatment by law enforcement and criminal justice systems,  
73 regardless of the color of their skin; and

74 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

75 That it is in the increasing numbers of working people who are willing to engage in these  
76 struggles for racial and economic justice that we find hope for the future of our country. We urge  
77 AFSCME members to join in this movement by supporting and participating in the protests and to  
78 consider holding solidarity actions in the workplace.

SUBMITTED BY: Cherrene Horazuk, President and Delegate  
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