

Resolution

Proclaiming Black Lives Matter

Whereas, recent national events involving police brutality and misconduct have shed light on a deeper issue in America. Systemic racism has plagued America for centuries.

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.

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.

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.

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 that the Cities Association of Santa Clara County stands in solidarity with its black residents and communities of color. We are committed to taking action and encouraging all cities to:

1. Review law enforcement practices within its 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 police departments to hire officers that reflect the communities they serve.
5. Adopt the pillars of *21st Century Policing* and evaluate Use of Force policies and practices in their police departments to ensure that all residents are being treated fairly and with dignity.