

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Ricardo Arroyo



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION
CONDEMNING POLICE BRUTALITY, RACIAL PROFILING,
AND THE USE OF EXCESSIVE AND MILITARIZED FORCE
(H.R. _)**

- WHEREAS,* Recent news stories detailing the murders of unarmed people of color have not only taken a physical toll on our community, but have further deepened the generations of emotional trauma which people carry around with them every day; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd have sparked outrage and protest across the country, raising the same issues as those who protested in Ferguson in 2014 and in Los Angeles in 1992, demanding accountability, equity, and respect from our system of law enforcement; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for black men in the United States and black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by the police than their non-Hispanic white counterparts, with black women 1.4 times more likely to be killed than white women; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) has introduced a resolution addressing disparities in our police system, titled Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The resolution tracks the long history of police brutality in the United States, noting that it stems from “the long legacy of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, and the War on Drugs in the United States and has been perpetuated by violent and harmful law enforcement practices;” *and*
- WHEREAS,* As public servants, it is incumbent upon the City Council to stand with those demanding accountability and equal representation under the law; *and*

WHEREAS,

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Amadou Diallo, Michael Brown, Alton Sterling, Sean Bell, Kendra James, Ronald Madison, Jonathan Sanders, Calvin Reid, Thomas Allen Jr., Tony Robinson, Dominick Wise, Eric Harris, Phillip White, and so many more, remain in the public consciousness and that their memory serve as a call to action to elected leaders and members of the public alike to hold themselves accountable to resilient yet underrepresented communities; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED,

That the Boston City Council offers its support for Congresswoman Pressley's resolution against police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive, militarized police force and echoes its call for the Department of Justice to reinstitute its role in investigating instances of police departments that violate civil rights, *AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED,

That the City Council affirms its moral obligation to protect the civil rights of resilient yet underrepresented communities across Boston--including people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and others--who have historically suffered from institutional and systemic inequities that excessively criminalize them.

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