

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to provide for comprehensive policing and justice reform for District residents and visitors; and for other purposes.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was killed by members of the Louisville Metro Police Department while she was sleeping in her home.

(b) On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, was killed when a white member of the Minneapolis Police Department pressed his knee into Mr. Floyd’s neck for almost 9 minutes while Mr. Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down on the street.

(c) In response to these events, thousands of people in cities across the country, including the District, have taken to the streets to protest injustice, racism, and police brutality against Black Americans. The First Amendment assemblies have given voice to deep anger and trauma engendered by acts of violence by the police against Black Americans and energized a national movement around racism and white supremacy in policing, the use of force, lack of police accountability and transparency, and systemic racial injustice and inequity.

33 (d) The deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor – and of so many other Black
34 Americans at the hands of the police – are interwoven with the legacy and evolution of slavery
35 and generations of racial terror in this nation. Enduring systems of institutional racism continue
36 largely unabated in the over-policing, over-charging, and over-incarceration of Americans of
37 color.

38 (e) Here at home, many District residents of color experience a conflicted and troubling
39 relationship with law enforcement. Simultaneously, the District struggles with a global pandemic
40 that has overwhelmingly impacted residents of color. Yet, despite serious risks to their health
41 from COVID-19 and threats of violence against them by their own government, District residents
42 are peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights to stand up for racial justice and demand
43 change.

44 (f) The Council must listen to the voices of District residents and act accordingly to bend
45 the arc of justice. In this moment, silence and inaction in the area of policing and criminal justice
46 reform means would equate to consent to systemic oppression and inequity.

47 (g) This comprehensive emergency legislation enhances police accountability and
48 transparency and builds safe and more just communities through numerous best practices.

49 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
50 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the
51 Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Emergency Amendment Act of 2020 be adopted
52 after a single reading.

53 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.