

Black Lives Matter

STAND DOWN

Stop the Violence



Sharon Maxwell and the CD3 Committee are sending this to Congressman Earl Blumenauer and other Oregon Elected Officials:

Resolution for a permanent end to de-escalation of local and federal aggression against Black Lives Matter protesters and for systemic redress of harms from historic and ongoing institutionalized racism and state-sanctioned violence against Black People and other People of Color in the City of Portland, the State of Oregon and the United States of America.

Whereas it is unacceptable that we as a nation have a long history of systemic oppression, enslavement, suppression, disenfranchisement and dispossession of black people and other people of color for the financial enrichment of white people in the United States, and an equally long history of brutalization and murder of black people and people of color at the hands of police and soldiers in the enforcement of local, state and federal laws;

Whereas the state of Oregon has a history of blatant discrimination, exclusion, segregation, dispossession, and state-sanctioned violence against Black people and other people of color codified in our state constitution, laws, and policies;

Whereas the City of Portland has a history of oppressing, disenfranchising, and dispossessing black people and other people of color in our codes, policies and practices;

Whereas the Portland Police Bureau has a history of police misconduct, violence and unequal enforcement of laws against Black people and other people of color, of protecting and promoting white supremacists within their ranks, and of working closely with known white supremacists individuals and groups in their law enforcement, reinforcing old paradigms present since the founding of our state and making Portland a fertile ground for continued overt racism,

Whereas it is unacceptable that there has been a lack of a united anti-racist response by our local political leaders as demonstrated by the tacit approval of the soft response of our police and police leadership to recent white supremacist rallies and the harsh, disproportionate show of force and brutality to their protesters and against the current Black Lives Matter protests;

Whereas members of the 3rd Congressional District Democrats have proudly called our party the "Party of Jefferson and Jackson," men whose accomplishments must be weighed in relation to their own histories as racist slaveholders and mass-murderers of indigenous peoples, histories that we as institutional heirs rarely contemplate or fully comprehend;

Whereas there is little awareness among most white people in the United States regarding the breadth, depth and cruelty of institutionalized racism and white supremacist history in the United States at the local, state and national level;

Whereas Martin Luther King said "we are caught in an ines-

capable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny," and we understand how violence against, murder and exploitation of Black people and other people of color primarily enriches the most powerful while dividing and distracting and weakening us, thereby making other populations more vulnerable to attack;

Whereas, the murder of George Floyd focused brought the attention of the nation on to the brutality regularly carried out by police against Black people and other people of color in implementing laws that keep them in an oppressed state, and sparked national and international outrage not only among people of color but peoples from all walks of life in this country and around the world despite the limited understanding most people have regarding the full history of institutionalized racism in the United States;

Whereas the societal impact and social weight of George Floyd's murder is compounded in our collective consciousness by an incomprehensibly long list of brutalization and murder with impunity of innocent black people and other people of color over hundreds of years, and this impact has resulted resulting in a genuine uprising of protest and demand for changes both in Portland and across the United States, particularly regarding the routine unconstitutional and extra-legal/illegal federal and local police oppression and brutalization of black people and other people of color;

Whereas the recent federal violence against Black Lives Matter protesters in Portland, including the use of secret, unmarked police and mercenaries exceeding their federal authority in beating and gassing Americans with military grade weapons banned in modern warfare, plays out a long history of murder, brutality and oppression visited upon black people and other people of color which the majority of white people have often remained ignorant about and avoided accountability for;

Whereas the Black Lives Matter movement is part of a long and sacred history of outspoken and courageous protest to advance fair and equal treatment under the law for all peoples from colonists seeking equal representation in the making of laws that govern them, to the abolition of slavery, the expansion of the vote to women, the establishment of labor unions and fair labor practices, and the civil rights movement;

Whereas we stand now at a moment of national reckoning and hold ourselves accountable to work tirelessly to bring an end to institutionalized racism in Oregon;

And Whereas the cause of black people and other people of color in this country is just, and warrants redress and remembrance of their plight to help restore our dignity as a people and keep us and our children from engaging in such barbarous behavior in the future;

Now therefore be it resolved...

That we, the 3rd Congressional District Democrats, hereby acknowledge the dark histories of the founders of our party and country, our leaders and people, over the long arc of American history regarding treatment of black people and other people of color both inside the United States and around the world;

We call for the immediate cessation of all hostilities against black people and all people of color, and their allies, in their just cause of protests

that have drawn attention to our racist history and the need for fundamental change in our society. In particular, we condemn the use of violent intimidation tactics used by Federal troops without accountability against their fellow Americans, we support our Governor's demand for the removal of Federal troops from the City of Portland, and we demand immediate cessation of plans to deploy federal troops for the purposes of suppressing civil rights in other cities throughout the United States.

We call for the cessation of hostile activities of the Portland Police Bureau, and police departments across this country, toward black people and all people of color and their allies in the constitutionally protected exercise of their free speech to draw attention to our history and current-day repercussions of racist laws, policies, and practices;

We call for the dismissal, censor, arrest, impeachment, defeat and/or removal from office of racist individuals in positions of power, and their white supremacist enablers, on every rung of political and economic power in our country, including the current acting president and attorney general of the United States;

We call for ending qualified immunity, and divesting from institutions steeped in racist law enforcement and their replacement with institutions committed to the implementation of fair and equitable laws in a fair and equitable manner, in particular the dismantling of the Department of Homeland Security, dismantling of the private prison industry and emptying of prisons of all non-violent offenders locked up due to harsh sentencing policies disproportionately carried out against people of color, and divestment from and demilitarization of the Portland Police Bureau;

We call upon our representatives at the local, state and national level to create and fund Truth & Reconciliation Commissions for the City of Portland, the State of Oregon, and the United States to study the depth and breadth of our white supremacist history in its historic and ongoing manifestations, and to create educational institution and programs so that we do not forget our racist history, and we encourage other states and localities to do the same.

And we support calls for reparations and hereby call upon government at all levels to invest in black communities and communities of color at a disproportionately higher rate to support the growth of black-owned businesses, home-ownership, median net-worth, equitable healthcare and other markers so that individuals in those communities may equitably benefit from the wealth many of their forebears helped create that has for so long been almost exclusively controlled and enjoyed by white people.

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