

Resolution in Support of the Black Lives Matter Movement

1 **WHEREAS**, the summer of 2020 has seen unprecedented social unrest in Southeastern Wisconsin and
2 throughout the country.

3 **WHEREAS**, the unconscionable modern-day lynching of unarmed Black people by police perpetuates a
4 long history of violence and oppression against Black people by state-sanctioned institutions.

5 **WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM) has asserted its commitment to diversity
6 and inclusion; as an institution, the constituency of our student body includes the largest proportion of
7 Students of Color in the UW-System.

8 **WHEREAS**, the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police spurred another wave of peaceful
9 protests against police violence and demands for de-funding of police institutions throughout the
10 country; looting and rioting associated with these protests have frequently been found to be spurred by
11 externalities such as white instigators and accelerationists (Source: Brookings Institution:
12 <https://brook.gs/32UFDef>).

13 **WHEREAS**, these protests were often met with unnecessary and oppressive violence, excessive use of
14 force, and displays of militarism by police institutions throughout the country, including the Milwaukee
15 Police Department (MPD).

16 **WHEREAS**, the UWM Police Department (UWMPD), under the auspices of Chancellor Mone, are
17 involved in a 'mutual aid agreement' that would have forced UWM to cooperate with MPD during the
18 height of these protests, including offering on-campus holding cells to detain protestors.

19 **WHEREAS**, police departments across the country, including MPD and UWMPD have seen increased
20 funding for military-style vehicles, weapons, training, and gear; the trend of militarization of police
21 forces has been identified as a significant factor in the suppression of People of Color, as described in
22 the ACLU Report, *War Comes Home* (<https://bit.ly/3gXR61F>).

23 **WHEREAS**, campus safety and security operations do not require the use of military vehicles or
24 weaponry; the role of police officers in campus activities should at all times emphasize the wellbeing of
25 students and staff, and in the de-escalation of conflicts.

26 **WHEREAS**, a coalition of community groups including Black Leaders Organizing Communities, the Black
27 Socialist Caucus of Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America, the African American Civic Engagement
28 Roundtable, the Black Educators Caucus, the Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America, the
29 Milwaukee Area Service and Hospitality Workers Organization, and Milwaukee County (District 4)
30 Supervisor Ryan Clancy have publicly requested a 25% cut to the Milwaukee County Sheriff's
31 department. (<https://bit.ly/32UOtZo>)

32 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED;** UWM Student Association (SA) deplors the murders of Ahmaud Arbery,
33 Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and the more recent and nearby shooting of Jacob Blake, in addition to
34 the countless others who have died and suffered as a result of both police violence and white
35 supremacy.

36 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We, the Students of UWM, invoking the constitutional freedom
37 of assembly, pledge to support and defend protests held in support of the Black Lives Matter
38 Movement.

39 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We insist that Black lives *do* matter, and acknowledge the
40 legitimacy and necessity of the Black Lives Matter movement, asking that the UWM and UW System's
41 administrations likewise acknowledge these facts; furthermore, we reject the racist rejoinder, 'all lives
42 matter' and repudiate the term's use.

43 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** SA supports the formation of a University Police Advisory Board
44 with real and legitimate authority to determine and reform UWMPD policies, practices, and budget; we
45 further demand that student representatives be involved in the formation of such a Board, and that an
46 equal proportion of voting membership on the Board be given to students, faculty, and staff, as to
47 Administration personnel.

48 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We generally support the notion that funding for police
49 departments across the nation and within Wisconsin should be redirected toward social-betterment and
50 wellness initiatives.

51 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We specifically demand that the UWM administration formally
52 commit to de-militarization of the UWM Police Department, and that any and all cooperative ties to
53 county, state and federal law enforcement (including ICE) be permanently severed; that the terms of the
54 mentioned 'mutual aid agreement' be renegotiated to the satisfaction of the University Police Advisory
55 Board as laid out above; that a detailed and thorough accounting of UWMPD's annual budget be
56 publicly posted on the UWMPD website; and that the UWMPD budget be re-appropriated to reduce the
57 number of police officers, weapons, and vehicles, in lieu of unarmed 'community officers' trained in
58 social services, de-escalation, and conflict resolution.

59 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We abhor the recent behavior and response of Kenosha police,
60 both in the shooting of Jacob Blake, and the cooperation with white nationalists and militia members,
61 some of whom were involved in the murder and serious injury of protestors.

62 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED;** We further strenuously request the City and County of
63 Milwaukee follow demands (including those of the coalition listed at Line 26 above) to redistribute
64 funding streams away from police and sheriff's departments (including our own UWMPD) toward social-
65 betterment and community wellness activities, especially in areas of greater minority concentration, and
66 to cease cooperation with state and federal law enforcement.

67 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED;** This legislation shall be disseminated to UW System Interim
68 President Tommy Thompson, UW System Board of Regents, Chancellor Mark Mone, Chief of UWM
69 Police Joseph LeMire, Deans of UWM Colleges, UWM Faculty Senate, Milwaukee County Board of
70 Supervisors, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barret, City of Milwaukee Common Council, Milwaukee Fire and
71 Police Commission; the bill shall be further distributed to all student government entities and faculty
72 senates throughout UW System campuses.

Emma Mae Weber

Emma Mae Weber
Student Association President

9/11/20

Date

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Legislative History

September 6, 2020 – Introduced by Senators Griggs & Heintzkill. Cosponsored by Senators Broeren and Kirsanov.

August 29, 2020 – Co-Authored by Senators Heintzkill & Griggs, and Campus & Community Outreach Director Heredia.

September 6, 2020 – Passed by the 2020-2021 Student Association Senate.