



PIERCE COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, the homicide of Manuel “Manny” Ellis is just one in a long line of incidents of law enforcement officers killing Black people; and,

WHEREAS, Black, brown and indigenous people face police violence, prosecution and incarceration in disproportionate numbers; and,

WHEREAS, systemic racism is present in all functions of our society; and,

WHEREAS, systemic racism and the legacy of slavery and the genocide of indigenous peoples have not been sufficiently addressed in our society and continue to do harm to millions of our siblings across this country; and,

WHEREAS, racism, misogyny, and other forms of bigotry are used by the owner class to divide working people and exploit our labor and pillage our resources; and,

WHEREAS, Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, leaders and members have joined the protests demanding action to end police violence and address systemic racism throughout our society; and,

WHEREAS, elected leaders at every level and of every party but most especially the President of the United States have inflamed tensions through rhetoric and actions that increase the use of force against protestors; and,

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has mobilized our military, National Guard and federal law enforcement to intimidate protestors and has used our brave siblings in uniform to assault our first amendment rights for his own political purposes; and,

WHEREAS, our federal government has stoked escalation of police violence by supplying police departments with military equipment in an effort to militarize our police and enabling a culture of conflict and confrontation between police and citizens, especially Black, brown and indigenous communities; and,

WHEREAS, our County Executive, Bruce Dammeier called upon the National Guard to be on standby during peaceful demonstrations outside the City-County Building, furthering the fear of peaceful protestors; and,

The Voice of Working Families in Pierce County for More Than 125 Years!

WHEREAS, we know it is possible to work together for change. Community leaders, labor leaders, and police leaders came together to write and pass I-940, making Washington state a national leader in statewide police training and accountability measures and included de-escalation and mental health training for officers; and,

WHEREAS, the coronavirus crisis has exposed additional consequences of systemic racism especially in economic and health outcomes for Black, brown and indigenous people; and,

WHEREAS, systemic racism is an economic issue that negatively harms all working people to benefit the wealthy and corporations; and,

WHEREAS, Labor movement has fought for equity in contracts, in the law and in our society; and,

WHEREAS, we stand firmly in every person's rights under the First Amendment to protest and petition our government for redress of wrongs; and,

WHEREAS, our labor movement fights on the principle that an injury to one is an injury to all; and,

WHEREAS, the labor movement has played a powerful role in the work to dismantle inequality and injustice, and organized labor has a unique set of resources and experience to support efforts to achieve racial, economic and social justice; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, loudly declares, "Black Lives Matter"; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, has a duty to our members, our labor community and our country to directly and unflinchingly address our own role in systemic bias and fight systemic bias in all its forms; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will redouble our efforts to seek out, listen to, and amplify the voices of Black, brown and indigenous members within our federation and address the systemic racism in our community that puts up barriers to their freedom; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will engage with our community partners to address systemic racism in policy and implementation across our county, state and nation, building a working-class anti-racist movement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will post Black Lives Matter placards on the front door of our Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, offices, and encourage our affiliates, our delegates, and our community partners to do the same and demonstrate our solidarity with our brothers and sisters by joining and supporting peaceful protestors including civil disobedience; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, call for the immediate cessation of military, including National Guard involvement in protests, and the immediate end of all use of force against and detention of those exercising their first amendment right to assemble; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, condemn Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier for his request to mobilize the National Guard during peaceful protests; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will push for and support efforts at the federal level to end the transfer of military equipment and tactics to police departments; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will push for and support efforts in alignment with the movement for Black Lives and other groups led by Black, brown and indigenous communities, to reform law enforcement and our criminal justice system at all levels, with steps including but not limited to: mandatory training on de-escalation and implicit bias; civilian review boards; real accountability for officers and departments who violate their oath to protect and serve; bail reform; drug law reform, and related demands; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will push for and support efforts to ensure economic and democratic freedom for all, especially Black, brown and indigenous communities, including but not limited to; reinvestment in social services and education; access to good, family-supporting jobs; universal healthcare for all, and the right to vote safely without barriers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, will push for and support efforts to ensure immediate relief for all communities during and following the pandemic, with special focus on equitable resources and outcomes for Black, brown and indigenous people; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, its delegate body and affiliates stand in solidarity with Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards and supports her decision to call for a full and independent investigation in the homicide of Manuel “Manny” Ellis with action, including termination, for all officers who played a role in his death; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, supports the Governor’s review of all officer related shooting incidents statewide; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, calls upon its affiliate members and all Pierce County organized labor organizations to incorporate explicit anti-racism language in their collective bargaining agreements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, stands with the members of the International Union of Police Associations, Local 6, who actively seek anti-racist reforms within their organization but have been forced into silence; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we will push for and support all efforts within the labor movement to consider all options available to us to help move forward the cause of racial and economic justice.

ADOPTED this 10th day of June, 2020, by the Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.


Patty Rose, Secretary-Treasurer