

## SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

June 22, 2020

In support of people of color throughout the United States, especially in Orange County, and condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the South Orange County Community College District.

**Whereas** all California community colleges ensure equal educational opportunity of all students and embrace diversity among students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve, as an integral part of our history; and

**Whereas** embracing diversity means that we must intentionally practice acceptance and respect towards one another and understand that discrimination and prejudices create and sustain privileges for some while creating and sustaining disadvantages for others; and

**Whereas** our commitment to diversity requires that we strive to eliminate those barriers to equity and that we act deliberately to create a safe and inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for our growth and understanding as an educational community; and

**Whereas** police brutality and the use of excessive and militarized force are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States and have led to community destabilization, a decrease in public safety, and the exacerbation of structural inequities; and

**Whereas** the system of policing in America, and its systemic targeting of and use of deadly and brutal force against people of color, particularly Black people, 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** contemporary police practices that employ policing for low level offenses or so called “broken windows” policing, as well as expanded and excessively militarized policing, has led to mass criminalization, heightened violence, and mass incarceration that disproportionately impacts Black and Brown people; and

**Whereas** data shows there is a direct correlation between the increased militarization of a police department and corresponding levels of police brutality;

**Whereas** police use of force is among the leading causes of death for young men of color; and

**Whereas** Black people, including Black women and girls, Native Americans, and Latinx are killed by police at disproportionately higher rates than their White peers; and

**Whereas** people with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those experiencing homelessness are significantly more likely to be criminalized and targets of police violence; and

**Whereas** police brutality and the use of excessive force have robbed countless communities of precious lives, have inflicted intergenerational harm and trauma to families, and are intensifying our Nation’s mental health crisis; and

**Whereas** police in the United States, through acts of brutality and the use of excessive force, kill far more people than police in other comparable nations and have been historically shielded from accountability; and

**Whereas** the killings of hundreds each year, and the demonstrations that followed have brought sustained national attention to the racially biased police violence against people; and

**Whereas** the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees condemns the opportunistic actions of a few lawbreakers during the demonstrations in which activists are seeking “Equal Justice Under the Law,” which is a cornerstone of jurisprudence in the United States and is what protestors throughout the nation are demanding, and

**Whereas** the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees finds that the conduct of police officers who engage in racial profiling and excessive force, which can include shootings, brutal beatings, fatal chokings, and any other excessive treatment is a violation of the Constitution of the United States; and

**Whereas** the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees finds that the rule of law in the United States is undermined when police officers engage in conduct inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States; and

**Whereas** South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees has a moral and constitutional obligation to protect the civil rights and liberties of all people from police abuses;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees:

(1) condemns all acts of brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers and calls for the end of militarized policing practices;

(2) supports strengthening efforts to eliminate instances of excessive use of force, and conduct stringent oversight and independent investigations into instances of police brutality, racial profiling, and excessive use of force, and hold individual law enforcement officers and police departments accountable, including—

(A) calling on the Department of Justice to—(i) reinstitute its role in investigating individual instances of police brutality, violence, and racial profiling, and police departments that violate civil rights; and (ii) take on a role in filing briefs urging courts to reconsider decisions that permit unreasonable and excessive police practices and establish meaningful oversight of consent decrees; and

(B) encourage local municipalities to establish independent all-civilian review boards, with the authority to effectively investigate incidents of police misconduct, to ensure meaningful community level oversight, transparency, accountability, and discipline of police officers; and

(3) calls for the adoption of sound and unbiased law enforcement policies at all levels of government that reduce the disparate impact of police brutality and use of force on Black and Brown people and other historically marginalized communities; and,

(4) recognizes the complexity of our present state and calls to for a better future for all students, faculty, staff and the wider communities we represent.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 22nd day of June, 2020 in the South Orange County Community College District.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

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T.J. Prendergast III, Board President  
South Orange County Community College District