

A Resolution Calling For Police Accountability And An End To Police Violence In Greensboro

Whereas the police disproportionately kill and harm Black people, whether it is the choking of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the murder of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, or Marcus Deon Smith here in Greensboro;

Whereas 44% of Greensboro is Black and Black people make up 80% of police searches in Greensboro;

Whereas 44% of Greensboro is Black and Black people make up over 80% of arrests for marijuana, a substance which is essentially treated as legal for white people;

Whereas the community needs concrete tools to be able to hold police accountable when they are violent, and the police cannot police themselves;

Whereas the Guilford County Democratic Party recognizes the long history of racism in our community, including the burning of Gillespie Golf Course in order to prevent it from being integrated, the refusal to integrate the Woolworth Lunch Counter until after a citywide boycott of segregated businesses and the birth of an entire movement, the inaction of the Greensboro police in allowing the Greensboro massacre to proceed at the hands of the Nazi Party and the KKK, the hogtying death of Marcus Deon Smith, and continued failure to invest in Black communities, businesses, and schools in south and east Greensboro;

Whereas, while change is needed at every level of government, there are concrete policy changes and ordinances that the Greensboro City Council specifically has in their power to make to end police brutality; and

Whereas the Guilford County Democratic Party recognizes that it is our responsibility to stand up for racial justice and racial equity, and that the usual slow, incremental and often nonexistent reforms have not been successful in producing a racially just Guilford County;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Guilford County Democratic Party stands in support of Greensboro Rising's demands to the City of Greensboro and call upon our city council, police department, and sheriff's office to pursue the following:

- 1. Publicly atone for the homicide of Marcus Deon Smith, adequately compensate his family, and hold the presiding officers/supervisors accountable.**
 - a. Apologize and adequately compensate the family of Marcus Deon Smith for his homicide death.
 - b. Fire the officers and their supervisors who helped cover up the homicide for their wrongdoing, demand that the county fire the paramedics involved, and issue a public apology from the City of Greensboro for the killing of Marcus Smith and over 50 years of police brutality and corruption.
 - c. Set up a memorial to honor the life of Marcus Deon Smith and all other victims of police violence in Greensboro.

- 2. Stop physically harming and arresting people who are speaking out for justice.**
 - a. Stop allowing the police to put their hands on people who are not putting their hands on anyone else.
 - b. Stop using military weapons, materials, and tactics, to suppress people who are protesting for our freedom. Demilitarize the police. Rubber bullets, other bullets, tear gas, pepper spray, and sound cannons must be prohibited.

- 3. Reduce funding to the police, so they cannot buy militarized weapons to harm us, and redirect funding to Crisis Intervention and Recreation Centers.**
 - a. Invest in mental health workers to develop an in-house, adequately funded 311 number to give residents an alternative in crisis situations to calling the police. Residents should be able to access trained crisis workers – mental health providers and social workers to de-escalate and address a situation.
 - b. Invest in more funding for organizations that act as alternatives to the police for interventions in mental health, sexual harassment, and domestic violence situations.
 - c. Invest in the city's recreation centers, to create safe, fun and well-funded spaces and fully-staffed programs for our youth.
 - d. Fund these programs with money that is normally spent on weapons, new cars, new policing gadgets, ATVs, segways, trainings that tell police officers to attack the public and promote the 'Warrior Mentality', tear gas, and rubber bullets. Fund these programs with money spent setting up check-points to shake down vulnerable people with expired plates and insurance, and money spent "preemptively"

profiling Black people.

4. Stop the police from the regular practice of violence toward unarmed civilians.

- a. Pass an Ordinance Requiring the Adoption of a Use of Force Policy that restricts police from physically harming us and:
 - i. Prohibits the use of chemical agents, sound cannons, and bullets- rubber or otherwise on groups of civilians.
 - ii. Requires officers to de-escalate situations where possible by communicating with subjects, maintaining distance, otherwise eliminating the need to use force.
 - iii. Does not allow officers to choke or strangle civilians.
 - iv. Requires officers to intervene and stop excessive force used by other officers and report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.
 - v. Restricts officers from shooting at moving vehicles, which is a particularly dangerous and ineffective tactic.
 - vi. Spells out and limits the types of force and/or weapons that can be used to respond to specific situations.
 - vii. Requires officers to exhaust all other means before resorting to deadly force.
 - viii. Requiring officers to give a verbal warning, when possible, before shooting at a civilian.
 - ix. Requiring officers to report each time they use force or threaten to use force against civilians.
 - x. Lays out disciplinary measures up to and including termination for violating the Use of Force Policy.

5. Treat trans and gender non-conforming, intersex and other LGBTQ people with dignity.

- a. Require the Police Department to implement Standard Operating Procedures (a set of rules across the department) for officers when interacting with trans, gender non-conforming, intersex and other LGBTQ+ people that require officers to:
 - i. Treat trans, intersex, and gender non-conforming people in a manner appropriate to their identity, which may be different from the sex they were assigned at birth or is listed on their government ID.
 - ii. Use the trans, intersex, gender non-conforming person's chosen name and pronouns.

- iii. Not use slurs or derogatory words in reference to people based on their gender identity.
- iv. Search people following departmental procedures based on people's gender identity- not sex at birth.
- b. Require officers to go through Trans 101 trainings led by very well compensated trans & gender non-conforming people.

6. Treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity and stop criminalizing them.

- a. Pass an Ordinance requiring the Police Department to implement Standard Operating Procedures for police when dealing with people experiencing homelessness which acknowledges that homelessness is not a crime and that people experiencing homelessness retain their constitutional rights to privacy, equal treatment before the law and protections to be free from cruel and unusual punishments regardless of their housing status.

7. End arrests for marijuana possession.

- a. Pass an ordinance requiring that the Police Department stop arresting, fining and charging people for possession of marijuana. Without prohibitively expensive lab testing, it is indistinguishable from CBD and hemp products that are legal in the state of North Carolina, as described in a memo by the State Bureau of Investigation. Further, the Guilford County District Attorney has stopped prosecuting for marijuana possession under 1.5 ounces.

8. Publicly share data so we can understand how the police are treating us.

- a. Share data quarterly on incidences of uses of force, disparities in policing and arrests, and complaints against the department and officers.
- b. Share data quarterly on charges, citations, arrests, and fines by race, gender, ethnicity and age.

9. Obtain written consent before searching an individual (or their personal property) without a warrant.

- a. Adopt the Written Consent Policy put forward by the Greensboro Criminal Justice Advisory Commission in February of 2020.
 - i. *"Greensboro police officers who search persons based on their consent should obtain voluntary consent from those persons (1) by verbally informing them of their right to refuse a search **and***

(2) by securing written consent through the GPD Consent to Search Form."

- ii. Use clear language in the Consent to Search Form to let people know that they have the right to say no to a search.
- iii. Add language to the Consent to Search Form that lets people know they have the right to change their mind and withdraw consent.
- iv. Require Officers to read the Consent to Search form to the person being searched.

10. Form and empower Police Community Review Boards to enforce tangible accountability to officers and police departments.

- a. Do not require the PCRFB to sign a non-disclosure agreement or threaten them with financial penalties and/or jail time.
- b. Do not require complaints to go through Internal Affairs before being reviewed by the PCRFB.
- c. Pass a resolution in support of the State of North Carolina authorizing Police Community Review Boards to have subpoena power; and

Further, be it resolved that the Guilford County Democratic Party stands with the Guilford County Black community and affirms that Black Lives Do Matter.

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