

ADDRESSING POLICE BRUTALITY

WHEREAS, incidents of police shootings have become so commonplace that, according to “Mapping Police Violence,” there were only 23 days in 2018 in which the police did not kill anyone; and

WHEREAS, according to “Killed by Police,” Black Americans are three times as likely to be shot and killed by police than white people, and 13 of the 100 largest American city police departments kill Black men at higher rates than the U.S. murder rate; and

WHEREAS, recent revelations have unearthed new evidence of coverups for a multitude of prominent police shooting cases, including Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Laquan McDonald, Stephon Clark, and Rekia Boyd; and

WHEREAS, police also use non-lethal excessive force against Black Americans at higher rates than with other ethnic groups, and video evidence of police unnecessarily punching, kicking, tasing, throwing, and otherwise assaulting people has become a regular occurrence; and

WHEREAS, only 1 percent of officers involved in excessive and/or fatal force cases against Black Americans are ever charged with a crime, despite the rapid adoption of body cameras amongst larger metropolitan police forces; and

WHEREAS, these issues are as important as terms and conditions of employment to our black and brown sisters and brothers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU and its affiliates stand in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and will commit to working alongside organizations such as the Dream Defenders, Black Youth Project, the Movement for Black Lives, and others to demand accountability and justice for victims of police violence.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019