

BLACK LIVES MATTER

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin on February 26, 2012, as he walked to the store to get treats; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the acquittal of his shooter; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the death of 17-year-old Jordan Davis on November 23, 2012, who was shot and killed because his music was too loud; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the death of 19-year-old Renisha McBride on November 2, 2013, who was shot and killed when, after having a car accident, she knocked on a door for help and was greeted with shots because she was thought to be an intruder because she was black; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by seeing the footage of the death of Eric Garner on July 17, 2014, who was placed in a police chokehold until he went limp after stating that “he could not breath;” and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the death of 22-year-old John Crawford after he went to the store for supplies for his family and picked up a toy gun in Wal-Mart; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans were shocked and galvanized by the police shooting death of unarmed teenager Michael Brown on August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the list of Black Americans killed by police encounters goes on and on; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be shot and killed by police officers; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans have to have conversations with their young children about racial profiling and how to act when stopped by the police; and

WHEREAS, the women and men of OPEIU stand for peace, harmony and economic justice for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, OPEIU and all of organized labor support economically stabilizing communities with good jobs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED OPEIU policies will continue to be reflective of diversity and inclusion so that a cultural change will bring about an end to injustice and disparaging treatment of disenfranchised people, but in particular black young men.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019