

2016 THURSTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC RESOLUTIONS

1. Improving Community-Police Relations by Fostering Accountability and Public Trust

(Adopted May 1, 2016)

WHEREAS progressive action against injustice is a core part of our Democratic Party Platform;

WHEREAS we affirm the role of law enforcement to protect human life and believe that accountability and public trust are a key part of law and order;

WHEREAS the law in Washington state on the use of deadly force by law enforcement (RCW 9A.16.040) fails to provide clear guidance for law enforcement regarding the use of deadly force,

WHEREAS the close working relationship between law enforcement and prosecutors has contributed to a public perception that a conflict of interest exists when dealing with allegations of law enforcement misconduct, especially regarding the use of deadly force;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call for the establishment of independent citizen review boards to ensure transparent, fair, and accountable oversight of law enforcement agencies in the state;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for amending Washington's law on the use of deadly force by law enforcement, RCW 9A.16.040, by removing the "without malice and with a good faith belief" defense; by requiring that a subject pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury; and by requiring that the use of deadly force be necessary as defined in RCW 9A.16.010;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for the establishment of an independent state-wide special prosecutor with the authority to investigate and file charges in cases involving alleged misuse of deadly force by law enforcement and corrections personnel;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for the state-wide collection of data from all levels of law enforcement and corrections officers on all uses of force, and call for regular reports to the public, at least annually, by each law enforcement agency; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call for the training program for law enforcement and correction officers in this state to emphasize de-escalation, include implicit bias training, and incorporate a program on dealing with people with mental health issues so that officers are trained to address such issues in a humane and safe manner.