



### Resolution In Support of Black Lives Matter

Whereas the Washington State Democrats Platform adopted the statement, “We believe Human rights apply to all humans regardless of immigration status and include access to safe food, air, water, and shelter, as well as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, economic opportunity, personal safety, healthcare, education, employment, legal aid, and equitable due process (2020 WSDCC Platform, pg. 39, lines 1548-1550); ...as Democrats, we are, and will remain, at the forefront of the struggle to extend and ensure social, political, economic, legal, and cultural rights to all persons (WSDCC 2020 Proposed Platform, pg. 39, lines 1556-1557); ...(and that) Black Lives Matter (WSDCC 2020 Proposed Platform, pg. 39, line 1560)...”, and

Whereas the nine justices of the Supreme Court of Washington State issued an open letter on June 4, 2020, stating, “The devaluation and degradation of black lives is not a recent event. It is a persistent and systemic injustice that predates this nation’s founding. But recent events have brought to the forefront of our collective consciousness a painful fact that is, for too many of our citizens, common knowledge: the injustices faced by black Americans are not relics of the past. We continue to see racialized policing and the overrepresentation of black Americans in every stage of our criminal and juvenile justice systems. Our institutions remain affected by the vestiges of slavery: Jim Crow laws that were never dismantled and racist court decisions that were never disavowed.” “We go by the title of “Justice” and we reaffirm our deepest level of commitment to achieving justice by ending racism. We urge you to join us in these efforts. This is our moral imperative.”, and

Whereas we recognize our own county’s history in furthering and enshrining racial prejudice in that it was and is named for Samuel Royal Thurston, a white supremacist lawyer who testified before Congress for the enactment of exclusionary laws barring Black Americans from living in the Oregon Territory for fear they would intermarry with Native Americans and create a coalition against White Power (McLagan, 2009) and for the enactment of laws granting White Americans the stolen land of Native Americans, resulting in Samuel Thurston’s racist proposals enshrinement into Oregon’s state constitution,

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that we, Thurston County Democrats, fully support the Black Lives Matter movement, and will work to eliminate white supremacy in all its forms.

*Presented by: Kyrian MacMichael and Victor Minjares*

#### References:

WSDCC (2020). 2020 WSDCC platform passed June 13th, 2020. Retrieved on June 29, 2020 from <https://www.wa-democrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/WSDCC-2020-Final-Platform.pdf>

The Supreme Court State of Washington (2020). “Our moral imperative” open letter on June 4, 2020. Retrieved on June 28, 2020 from <http://www.courts.wa.gov/content/publicUpload/Supreme%20Court%20News/Judiciary%20Legal%20Community%20SIGNED%20060420.pdf>

McLagan, Elizabeth (2009). The black laws of Oregon, 1844 - 1857. Retrieved on June 28, 2020 from <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/black-laws-oregon-1844-1857/>

The Thurston County Democratic Central Committee passed this Resolution on July 13, 2020.