

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2024

A RESOLUTION URGING LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT TO FORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE DOCUMENTED HARMS OF THE LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE LMPD TO BUILD TRUST IN THE COMMUNITY.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER PARRISH-WRIGHT

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice issued findings and recommendations regarding the improved conduct of local police forces in *Investigation of the Louisville Metro Police Department and Louisville Metro Government* from March 8th, 2023 including these findings:

1. LMPD uses excessive force, including unjustified neck restraints and the unreasonable use of police dogs and tasers.
2. LMPD conducts searches based on invalid warrants.
3. LMPD unlawfully executes search warrants without knocking and announcing.
4. LMPD unlawfully stops, searches, detains, and arrests people during street enforcement activities, including traffic and pedestrian stops.
5. LMPD unlawfully discriminates against Black people in its enforcement activities.
6. LMPD violates the rights of people engaged in protected speech critical of policing.
7. Louisville Metro and LMPD discriminate against people with behavioral health disabilities when responding to them in crisis.; and;

WHEREAS, the University of Louisville released *The History of Policing in Louisville: A Fact Finding Report on Institutional Harms* on March 8th, 2024, and

uncovered several instances of police misconduct and recommended remedial measures including:

1. The police, as an institution, cannot fix itself. Internal measures and changes in the demographic composition of the police force, while better than no change, do not automatically lead to different outcomes in terms of patterns of harm and abuse.
2. To rebuild trust between the police and marginalized communities and to begin to undo entrenched patterns of harm, democratic mechanisms must be developed that provide transparency and accountability between the police and those they serve. A consistent through-line across the history of policing in Louisville has been the blatant unaccountability of police officers for their actions. In a democracy, citizens must have a say in the functioning of an institution that affects them. Given the outsized role that police play in the lives of marginalized communities, it is imperative that the police are accountable to these communities.
3. One small but significant step toward increasing accountability is to insist on a residential requirement for at least some proportion of the police serving a given community. In 1811, the earliest police in Louisville (“watchmen”) had such a requirement, but it was unfortunately not continued as the police force grew. A consistent plank among requested reforms from community watchdog organizations over the past century has been that more police officers reside in the areas of the county they serve.

4. The problem of policing cannot be untangled from the broader structural issues of inequality, racism, and poverty. The 1970s and 1980s shift to using police as the primary institution to deal with social, economic, and mental health issues must be undone through re-investment in social services, public programming, and economic safety nets. Instead of merely increasing police budgets every year, money should be redirected to comprehensively cover the economic, social, education, and health needs of vulnerable communities in Louisville
5. A process of amends including monetary compensation should be provided for victims of police abuse and to the communities that have faced intergenerational harm at the hands of the police.
6. The DOJ report and its recommendations must be taken seriously—not as an end, but as a starting point. We must, moreover, understand that report in relation to the longer history of policing we have documented here; and

WHEREAS, Louisville is a welcoming city; and

WHEREAS, transparency is tantamount to public trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE “COUNCIL”) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: The Louisville Metro Council acknowledges and urges the Louisville Metro Police Department and Mayor’s office to publicly acknowledge, the institutional harms inflicted by, and existing discriminatory culture within the Louisville Metro Police Department.

SECTION II: The Louisville Metro Council urges that community stakeholders meaning those who have been directly harmed by the LMPD, and those working in social services, and advocacy groups including Dove Delegates, the Louisville Urban League, the ACLU of Kentucky, Change Today, Change Tomorrow, Kentuckians for The Commonwealth, Community Control Now Louisville, BLACK, The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, VOCAL-KY, and many more, be consulted monthly during the consent decree negotiations.

SECTION III: The Louisville Metro Council request a detailed timeline for the creation and implementation of the consent decree to be publicly available for the community.

SECTION IV: Metro Council urges the Administration and individual Council Members not to allocate additional funds to LMPD outside of the regular budget cycle Department.

SECTION V: If there are any budget surpluses during the fiscal year, Louisville Metro Council urges the allocation of such funds to housing, healthcare, and restorative justice practices.

SECTION VI: To the extent possible, Louisville Metro Council urges the release of the names of officers, supervisors, and judges referred to in the DOJ report and/or in future cases of misconduct and discrimination.

SECTION VII: Louisville Metro Council urges that community stakeholders including those listed above, should observe contract negotiations between Metro Government and the Fraternal Order of Police

SECTION VIII: Louisville Metro Council urges any and all criminal charges against our residents related spring, summer and fall 2020 protests be dismissed.

SECTION IX: This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval or otherwise becomes law.

Sonya Harward
Metro Council Clerk

Markus Winkler
President of the Council

Craig Greenberg
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Michael J. O'Connell
Jefferson County Attorney

By: _____
R-XXX-24 TPCD Resolution LR 5/8/2024