

A Resolution of the American Federation of Teachers Local 1942, the Federation of Connecticut's Two-Year College Faculty and Staff, affirming that the lives of black students matter, as do the lives of all students of color, and that we support the response of Black Lives Matter protesters across Connecticut and beyond.

Whereas, the May 25, 2020 murder of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, by a Minnesota police officer has unleashed a wave of anger and rebellion in cities across the United States and inspired solidarity actions in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Palestine; and

Whereas, the police have a legacy of brutality and racially biased policies that have resulted in the extrajudicial killings of disproportionately black people. In 2019 the police killed over 1,000 civilians; black civilians were killed at a rate of three times that of white civilians; and

Whereas, the repeated and ongoing failure of the American judicial system to hold accountable those officers who engage in acts of brutality and racially biased practices demonstrates the deep systemic injustice in our laws and their enforcement; and

Whereas, the aggressive police response to Black Lives Matter protestors further evidences racial disparities in policing compared to the recent anti-lock down protests by largely white, largely middle-class crowds; and

Whereas, resources of the state in the form of police and National Guard mobilization during the current wave of protests have largely been devoted to protecting businesses and property, under the guise of calls for "law and order"; and

Whereas, people of color are disproportionately classified as essential workers and have been called on to continue working through the COVID19 pandemic, often without adequate protections. This combined with historic lack of access to quality medical care has resulted in black and brown people contracting COVID19 and dying at significantly higher rates; and

Whereas, systematic economic inequality has accentuated the wealth gap in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, the wealth of the top 20% has steadily grown for the last 50 years and in 2018, the highest quintile held more wealth than the bottom

four quintiles combined. Further, economic disenfranchisement of black families has led to the persistent gap between black and white earners; and

Whereas, students of color are disproportionately enrolled in public schools that are underfunded, understaffed, and thus disadvantaged compared to their white peers. This is a trend that spans kindergarten through post-secondary education. Moreover, budget deficits brought on by the current economic downturn will only exacerbate this reality; and

Whereas, austerity measures at minority serving public institutions are easily offset by redirecting funds designated to expand and militarize the police, and subsidize big business; and

Whereas, the above is clear evidence of a social, economic, and legal structure that values profit and property over the lives and the dignity of people of color;

Therefore, be it resolved that AFT local 1942 educates its members about the economic, educational and democratic disenfranchisement of people of color and encourages its members to join with community allies, actions, and campaigns that affirm the value of black lives; and

Be it further resolved that AFT local 1942 will donate \$500 to the Connecticut Bail Fund--an organization whose mission "is to reduce the direct harms caused by criminalization, incarceration, and deportation while building power among the people and families in our community who are most impacted by these systems." Among other important efforts Connecticut Bail Fund has been involved in supporting the Black Lives Matter protesters in Connecticut.

Be it further resolved, that this donation represents AFT's support for the protests in Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, Hartford, Waterbury and across the state which are confronting the police misconduct that resulted in the deaths of Jayson Negrón (May 9, 2017; age 15), Anthony Vega Cruz (April 20, 2019; age 19), Mubarak Soulemame (Gateway Community College student; Jan. 15, 2020, age 19), Edward Gendron (Jan 20, 2020; age 57), Jose Soto (April 21, 2020; age 21) and the brutalization of Stephanie Washington (April 16, 2019; age 22) and Paul Witherspoon (April 16, 2019; age 21).*

**We recognize that this is not an exhaustive list.*