

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

**CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

*4/12/2018 – Curtis Hall, Sacramento*

**RESOLUTION 2018-12**

*Demanding Justice for Stephon Clark*

**WHEREAS**, The notion of Justice in America entails certain fundamental values—among those: the right to due process in a court of law, the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, the right to life, and the right to not be subjected to cruel or unusual punishment;

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Constitution states in Amendment XIV that the government shall not “deprive any person of **life**, liberty, or property without due process of law;”

**WHEREAS**, When police shoot and kill unarmed civilians, they betray these fundamental values of American justice by anointing themselves judge, jury, and (literally) executioner;

**WHEREAS**, The frequency that police use deadly force against Black people is greater than the frequency that they use deadly force against people of other races, displaying systemic racism;

**WHEREAS**, District Attorneys regularly fail to prosecute police officers who kill unarmed civilians, particularly when the victim is Black;

**WHEREAS**, Regulations or laws governing the use of force and defining ‘reasonable force,’ the legal defense of ‘reasonable fear,’ and the legal doctrine of ‘qualified immunity’ too often allow police officers to escape the consequences of grave miscarriages of justice and due process by shielding them from firing, prosecution, or civil liability so long as they claim that they feared for their safety and they acted within the scope of their professional guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, The California Democratic Party recognizes in its 2018 platform that California Democrats shall: “Work to end police brutality by encouraging local governments to hold peace officers personally liable to pay damage awards for excessive force and wrongful deaths that were out of policy,” shall “Dismiss any peace officer that does not uphold the high standards and trust afforded them by the community and government,” and shall “Support a just and righteous

society by speaking out with a public and unified voice against all forms of racism, discrimination, harassment, hatred, and violence directed at racial and ethnic minorities.”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County seeks justice for Stephon Clark and others who have been killed by police and denied their Constitutional rights.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County admonishes Republican Sacramento County District Attorney Ann Marie Schubert for previously failing to prosecute officers who use force inappropriately, and we demand that she prosecute the officers who killed Stephon Clark.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County recognizes that use of force guidelines and the protections of ‘reasonable fear’ and ‘qualified immunity’ are overly broad, unsustainable, and disproportionately used against the pursuit of justice for Black victims of police brutality.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County supports a permanent statewide independent prosecutor to investigate and, if warranted, to prosecute any use of force by law enforcement.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Democratic Party of Sacramento County supports revisions to all laws and statutes involving ‘reasonable force’ and excessive police use of force—including the California Peace Officers Bill of Rights, which limits public transparency and shields law enforcement from prosecution.

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*Sponsors: End Poverty in California (EPIC) Upton Sinclair Social Democratic Club, Black Young Democrats of Sacramento, & Wellstone Progressive Democratic Club*

*Cosponsors: Andres Ramos, Jeff Otter, Michelle Pariset, Omega Brewer, Tamie Dramer, Eric Sunderland, Ricky Ric Barreto, Del Surette, Tracy Surette, Karen Bernal, Marcia Blount, J.D. Garcia, Orlando Fuentes, Robert Longer, Jenny Bach, Derek Cressman, Tanner Kelly, Moe Sarama, & Armando Cielo Flores*