

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 102

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Condemns anti-police rhetoric and violence.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



AR102 DANCER

2

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** strongly condemning rhetoric that
2 threatens law enforcement personnel and incites violence against
3 them.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Law enforcement officers in New Jersey and throughout
6 the nation serve the public honorably, protecting all people
7 regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, age,
8 ability, or socio-economic status, and risk their own lives every
9 day in pursuit of this duty despite the inherent dangers and risks
10 associated with this profession; and
11 **WHEREAS**, As guardians of the public, sworn to uphold the laws of
12 this State and country, law enforcement officials are properly
13 still subject to scrutiny of their actions and are held responsible
14 for them; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Recently, a number of instances have been spotlighted
16 that give rise to questions concerning the judgment exercised by
17 members of certain law enforcement agencies; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The stirring up of hostility in response to actual or
19 perceived law enforcement missteps have caused serious riots
20 and unrest, in places such as Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore,
21 Maryland, and Brooklyn, New York; and
22 **WHEREAS**, While open public discourse and protest are proper and
23 protected expressions under the First Amendment to the United
24 States Constitution, the disruptive and violent actions of some
25 individuals and groups pose a danger to law enforcement
26 personnel and bystanders alike, and such negative and harmful
27 rhetoric, threats, and slander is intolerable; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Some protests and gatherings have targeted police with
29 specific and implied threats, directives, and chants, further
30 provoking violence against law enforcement; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Outside of their law enforcement roles, officers are private
32 citizens with families, friends, and neighbors who deserve the same
33 freedoms and protections to live their lives as any other person in
34 New Jersey and this country; and
35 **WHEREAS**, There is no justification for targeting and, at worst,
36 assassinating members of our communities, who deserve respect
37 and gratitude for the selfless acts they perform as officers
38 serving and protecting all people; and
39 **WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest of the citizens of the State of
40 New Jersey and this great nation to condemn, in the strongest
41 terms, any hate speech, threats, and inflammatory rhetoric
42 targeting law enforcement and inciting violence against them;
43 now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
46 *Jersey:*

AR102 DANCER

3

1 1. This House condemns rhetoric that threatens or incites
2 violence against law enforcement personnel and violent acts
3 targeting the heroic and honorable members of law enforcement
4 who serve to protect the public.

6 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
7 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
8 Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, the President and
9 Executive Director of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of
10 Police, and the President of the New Jersey State
11 Policemen's Benevolent Association.

STATEMENT

16 This resolution strongly condemns speech and rhetoric that
17 threatens law enforcement personnel and incites violence against
18 them.

Recent news reports include accounts of individuals' statements and group demonstrations demonizing police as murderers. Law enforcement officers in New Jersey and throughout the nation serve the public honorably, protecting all people regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, or socio-economic status, and risk their own lives every day in pursuit of this duty despite the inherent dangers and risks associated with this profession.

27 Law enforcement officials are properly subject to scrutiny of
28 their actions and are held responsible for them. While a number of
29 instances have given rise to questions concerning the judgment
30 exercised by certain officers, the disruptive and violent actions of
31 some individuals and groups are provoking unwarranted violence
32 against law enforcement. There is no justification for targeting and,
33 at worst, assassinating members of the force, who deserve respect
34 and gratitude for the selfless acts they perform to serve and protect
35 all people. Outside of their law enforcement roles, officers are
36 private citizens with families, friends, and neighbors who deserve
37 the same freedoms and protections to live their lives as any other
38 person in New Jersey and this country.