

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 182

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle

SYNOPSIS

Condemns police brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning police brutality and the
2 excessive use of force by law enforcement.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Recent events have brought attention to the tragic deaths of
5 unarmed Black men and women, and other people of color, due to
6 police brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement; and
7 **WHEREAS**, These abuses have led to community destabilization and a
8 decrease in public safety; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Police brutality and excessive use of force
10 disproportionately affect people of color, particularly Black people;
11 and
12 **WHEREAS**, Police use of force is among the leading causes of death of
13 young men of color; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Black people, Native Americans, and Latinos are killed by
15 police at disproportionately higher rates; and
16 **WHEREAS**, People with disabilities and other historically marginalized
17 communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and
18 those experiencing homelessness also are significantly more likely
19 to be victims of police violence; and
20 **WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26 year-old Black
21 woman, was shot to death in her sleep by police when they raided
22 her home; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Maurice Gordon, a 28 year-old unarmed Black man, was
24 killed in New Jersey on May 23, 2020 after being pulled over for
25 allegedly speeding; and
26 **WHEREAS**, On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46 year-old unarmed
27 Black man, died after being pinned down by a white police officer
28 in Minneapolis, Minnesota; his alleged offense was using a
29 counterfeit \$20 bill; and
30 **WHEREAS**, The death of George Floyd sparked ongoing protests in all
31 50 states and many countries around the world; and
32 **WHEREAS**, In addition to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Maurice
33 Gordon, many other lives have been lost as a result of police
34 brutality and the excessive use of force by law enforcement; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Not only have the communities of these individuals
36 suffered, but this loss of life has inflicted intergenerational harm
37 and trauma to families; and
38 **WHEREAS**, This House finds that the conduct of officers who engage
39 in excessive use of force, which can include shootings, brutal
40 beatings, fatal chokings, and any other excessive treatment, is a
41 violation of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of
42 New Jersey; and
43 **WHEREAS**, This House finds that the rule of law is undermined when
44 police officers engage in conduct inconsistent with the Constitution
45 of the United States and the State of New Jersey; and
46 **WHEREAS**, This House has a moral and constitutional obligation to
47 protect the civil rights and liberties of all people from police abuses;
48 now, therefore,

1. This House strongly condemns police brutality and the excessive use of force by law enforcement.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States of America, the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, each member of Congress elected from the State of New Jersey, and the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution strongly condemns police brutality and the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers.

Recent events have brought attention to the tragic deaths of unarmed Black men and women, and other people of color, due to police brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement. These abuses have led to community destabilization and a decrease in public safety.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46 year-old unarmed Black man, died after being pinned down by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota; his alleged offense was using a counterfeit \$20 bill. The death of George Floyd sparked ongoing protests in all 50 states and many countries around the world. In addition to Mr. Floyd, countless other lives have been lost as a result of police brutality and the excessive use of force by law enforcement.

Police brutality and excessive use of force disproportionately affect people of color, particularly Black people, and are among the leading causes of death of young men of color. People with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those experiencing homelessness also are significantly more likely to be victims of police violence.

Excessive use of force, which can include shootings, brutal beatings, fatal chokings, and any other excessive treatment, violates the constitutional rights of those affected. These actions must be condemned, and the constitutional rights of those who fall victim to these abuses must be protected.