

Resolution Concerning Austin Police use of Arbitrary and Excessive force

>

> **Whereas**, there is a well-documented and long history of the use of excessive force used on people of color by the Austin Police Department ; and

Whereas, current APD use of force policy protects police behavior and allows the police office broad discretion in using deadly force; and

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> **Whereas**, internal investigations by the Austin Police Department has historically shown bias in favor of it's own officers and not reduced these deadly incidents; and

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> **Whereas**, the recommendations of the Department of Justice have not been fully implemented by the Austin Police Department and no action has been taken by the city to require implementation.

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> **Be It Resolved, that the Eastern Sectors of the Austin Neighborhoods** call on the City Council, City Manager, and Austin Police Chief to accept and implement all of the Department of Justice recommendations.

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>**Be It Resolved, that the Eastern Sectors of the Austin Neighborhoods** call on the City Council, City Manager, and Austin Police Chief to adopt a stricter "**preservation of life standard**" on use of force modeled after the Dallas, Houston and LAPD use of force standards. A brief description is provided below:

The most restrictive (intentionally used) deadly-force standard is the "preservation of life standard" as adopted by the Dallas and Houston (Texas) Police Department (among others). The "preservation of life standard" states that, "[r]egardless of the nature of the crime or the justification for firing at a suspect, officers must remember that their basic responsibility is to protect life. Officers shall not fire under conditions that would unnecessarily subject bystanders or hostages to death or possible injury, except to preserve life or to prevent serious bodily injury. Deadly force is an act of last resort and will be used only when other reasonable alternatives are impracticable or fail.(10)" [Emphasis added.] Further, the "preservation of life standard" requires that, "[o]fficers will plan ahead and consider alternatives which will reduce the possibility of needing to use deadly force(11)." [Emphasis added.]

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>It is the view of the East Austin Community that Adoption of the DOJ recommendations, Implementation of a "preservation of life standard", aggressive recruitment of young people from our communities and rigorous training on mental illness, as well as racial and cultural bias will hopefully reduce incidents of excessive force in our community

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