

Resolution to Establish an Austin DSA Campaign in Solidarity With the #JusticeForGeorgeFloyd Protest Movement Against Racist Police Violence

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter;

WHEREAS, police are our class enemies;

WHEREAS, modern policing is an authoritarian tool invented by the ruling class to inflict racial terror, break strikes, and prevent the formation of working class movements for equity and justice;

WHEREAS, white supremacy is a direct threat to the solidarity of the multiracial working class, and the police exist to systemically enforce white supremacy;

WHEREAS, Democrat and Republican politicians who run American city governments have imposed major budget cuts on social services like education, public housing, and public healthcare while drastically increasing the police budget every year;

WHEREAS, reforms implemented after Ferguson such as implicit bias training and body cameras have not solved core issues related to police brutality and violence ~~worked~~ and in fact have increased police funding and surveillance capabilities;

WHEREAS, millions of workers are currently suffering under the worst pandemic in a century and record high levels of unemployment, while America's billionaires have piled up an additional \$565 billion dollars and brought their wealth to \$3.4 trillion combined, more than the wealth of the bottom 60% of Americans combined;

WHEREAS, an unprecedented nationwide wave of protests has coalesced around the demand to "Defund the Police" and has directly led to the arrest and charges brought against the police who murdered George Floyd;

WHEREAS, the Austin Police Department has a history of documented reactionary racism and sexism within its ranks, of covering up sexual violence, and of murdering unarmed citizens including Mike Ramos;

WHEREAS, the Austin Police Department has met peaceful protests against police violence with wanton police violence, killing and grievously injuring peaceful protesters and bystanders;

WHEREAS, this nationwide protest movement calls for multiracial working class solidarity to fight for an end to police violence and the repressive system of capitalism it upholds;

WHEREAS, Austin DSA is committed to defunding, demilitarizing, and disarming police on a pathway to the abolishment of police, prisons and the carceral system in the U.S.;

WHEREAS, democratic socialists must fight for a positive vision of a society based on dignity, humanity and justice that puts people over profits...

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Austin DSA commits to supporting the protest movement by:

1. Visibly showing up in solidarity as a democratic socialist organization at protests and training members and others in direct action tactics and security techniques such as those explored by the Movement for Black Lives, and the DSA Anti-Fascist working group;
2. Engaging our members and campaign lists to check in, mobilize, and organize around our political demands;
3. Supporting union members in efforts to organize for racial justice in their workplace and in the labor movement;
4. Recruiting members who cannot attend protests to participate in mutual aid efforts to best support the ongoing protests;
5. Convening a communications team to broadcast news about ongoing protests from a socialist and working class perspective;
6. Facilitating organizer development and political education around a Defund the Police political campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Austin DSA will organize around the following political demands and apply pressure to elected officials and require chapter-endorsed candidates to commit to:

1. Defund the Austin Police Department, expand the public sector and fight for universal social programs funded by taxing the rich;
2. Fire or force the resignation of Austin Police Department Chief Brian Manley;
3. Remove all police from Austin Public Schools and other area schools;
4. Demilitarize the Austin Police Department and immediately, permanently ban the use of chemical agents, Long Range Acoustic Devices (LRADs), so-called less-than-lethal rounds, body armor, and similar equipment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Austin DSA seeks to provide a political home for working class people fighting to Defund the Police and will expand commitment to and understanding of that policy through recruitment of new members, political education, and coalition work with other organizations rooted in the multiracial working class of Austin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Austin DSA Leadership Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee will be responsible for creating and maintaining the structures and bodies that will oversee and carry out the work outlined above.