

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 203

Approved June 26, 2020

WHEREAS, On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer during an arrest when the officer pressed his knee into Mr. Floyd's neck for over nine minutes; and

WHEREAS, The officer in question was not initially charged with any crime and it was only when the video of Mr. Floyd's murder was made public that charges were brought against the officer and his partners; and

WHEREAS, On June 5, 2020, in response to the murder of George Floyd, as well as the failure of the system to immediately charge the officers who were involved, over 10,000 people gathered in Providence to protest against police brutality and systemic racism; and

WHEREAS, Similar protests have occurred in every state in the country as it has become increasingly clear that the manner by which police departments are managed in the United States has resulted in a complete breakdown in trust between the police and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, While the recent protests are in response to the killing of George Floyd, the issues of systemic racism, police brutality, and the failure of the government to support communities of color have plagued our society for generations; and

WHEREAS, It is time for all elected officials around the country to step up and put a stop to the endless cycle of senseless killings with no accountability; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island law enforcement officers facing any form of disciplinary action are protected by Rhode Island General Law §42-28.6 titled the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, The Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights prevents open and transparent disciplinary action, public accountability, and any mechanism by which meaningful police reforms can occur.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council urges the General Assembly to repeal Rhode Island General Law §42-28.6 et. seq. titled the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Providence Delegation, as well as the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUN 18 2020

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE

Date:

Mayor

6/26/20