



RESOLUTION ON TRANSPARENCY AND REFORMING UNIVERSITY POLICE AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

*Respectfully submitted to the Board of Directors of California State University, Los Angeles,
Associated Students, Incorporated*

Submission Date: 02/11/21, Approval Date: TBD

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Authored by Diana Chavez, *President, Associated Students Incorporated*

WHEREAS, The Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) is recognized as the official voice of the 26,390 students tasked with expressing and protecting the rights and interests of all the students in the institution. ASI is committed to overseeing administration at California State University, Los Angeles and tasked with ensuring the practice of Shared Governance and determining if the efforts and initiatives of campus administrators align with the needs and the interests of the student body.

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Safety states that the “University Police Department protects the University’s students, faculty, staff and visitors, answering more than 42,000 calls for service a year. Uniformed patrol officers, investigators, dispatchers and members of the Eagle Patrol work together to provide a safe environment, control traffic and prevent crime. Officers focus on educational programs such as Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) and Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) and members of the Eagle Patrol provide escort services”.¹

WHEREAS, The police killings of unarmed Black and Hispanic people are overrepresented in the State of California. The Black population is at 6.5%, yet the percentage on police killings of Black people is at 19.6%². In addition, the Hispanic population is at 39.4%, yet the percentage on police killings of Hispanics is at 46.4%².

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WHEREAS, it was announced on June 6th, 2020, that all 23 of the CSU Police Chiefs pledged to implement recommendations from President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing to take action and implement accountability, equity, and justice³; and

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¹ <https://www.calstatela.edu/police/about>

² <https://calmatters.org/explainers/california-police-shootings-deadly-force-new-law-explained/>

³ <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/news/Pages/CSU-Police-Chiefs-Pledge-to-Implement-Recommendations-from-The-Presidents-Task-Force-on-21st-Century-Policing.aspx>



WHEREAS, the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Department within the Student Health Center at Cal State LA has shared that the policies of the Cal State LA Police Department supersede the policies of CAPS in cases where a student is found to be a danger to self or others⁴. This means that the University Police is called upon by CAPS to make the final determination on whether a student is a danger to self or others, and

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WHEREAS, the Cal State LA Police Department does not require their officers to receive trauma-informed training to serve students in mental health crisis. Furthermore, before transporting mentally ill students, the Police Department by policy, must handcuff the student and search for weapons⁵, and

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WHEREAS, the police department is the highest funded entity under the Public Safety 2019-2020 budget. The total annual budget for the Public Safety is currently at \$5,040,763.41 wherein the police department budget is \$4,912,658.84 compared to the other entities in the same overall budget such as keys is at \$39,690.29, emergency preparedness is at \$77,703.30, and public safety is at \$710.98⁶.

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WHEREAS, the University Police Department has a higher budget than most student-orientated departments on campus such as the Educational Opportunity Program (\$2,185,183.35), Dreamers Resource Center (\$296,450.67), and the Office of Students with Disabilities (\$1,172,281.16)⁷,

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WHEREAS, the University Police are armed with unnecessary department issued firearm- Glock 22, 40 caliber, Glock 17, 9., AR-15 platform, .223; department issued MP5⁸ and authorized secondary weapons such as .38, .380, 9mm, .40 and .45 caliber firearms. Furthermore, officers assigned with the Critical Response Unit are armed with 37/38mm Shoulder GAS Gun; 40mm Launcher; Shotgun, loaded with lethal and non-lethal ammunition, MP5 A2 or A3; and AR-15 rifle and shall not fire warning shots⁸, and

Deleted: Cal State LA continues to vastly spend on the University Police Department in that compared to 2015 the total expenditure was \$3,720,058.3, and now it is at \$4,651,021.21⁶; and

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⁴ Fries, J., Personal communication to ASI Board of Directors, February 20, 2020. <https://asiCalStateLA.org/sites/default/files/content/minutes/2020/05/bodminutes02.20.2020certified.pdf>

⁵ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/iv-39_responding_to_persons_with_mental_illness.pdf

⁶ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Budget%20Administration/2019_20/2019_20_division_summary_administration_finance.pdf

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⁷ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Budget%20Administration/2019_20/2019_20_division_summary_student_life.pdf

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⁸ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/iv-1_use_of_force_0.pdf

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WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) are infamously known for their unfair treatment towards the Black and Brown community, corruption, and overall being a racist organization, yet Cal State LA administration allows the University Police Department cadets to attend the LAPD basic academy training⁹ knowingly that the population of students on campus are people of color, and

WHEREAS, the last review of a bias-based profiling training was in 2018¹⁰ despite the current events around the nation in where police discretion and police brutality towards Black and Brown people have been deadly,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the ASI Board of Directors recommends that in an effort to address systemic racism embedded in its policing and establish a culture of well-being and harm-reduction; Cal State LA shall severely limit ties or sever contracts with police departments that do not agree in reforming contract terms that will benefit Black and Brown students and community members. Furthermore, publish all existing contracts, memoranda of understanding, and other agreements with local, county, state, and federal agencies, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI requests banning all aggressive police tactics, firearms, and lethal use of force from the University Police Department and commit to replacing it with non-punitive forms of accountability, including non-lethal use of force, restorative and transformative justice, trauma-informed crisis teams, and other community-led public health and safety programs, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI recommends redirecting the resources from policing and reallocate funds to create a Center for Black Student Success which can provide a safe space for those who have been personally traumatized by police force, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI requests that the University Police Department should collaborate with but not limited to community groups, College of Ethnic Studies faculty, and the Cross-Cultural Center to design and facilitate police trainings, and

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⁹ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/ii-2_training_career_development.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/iv-34_bias_based_profiling.pdf



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends mandating the training of police officers on trauma-informed approach for interactions with students. Furthermore, eliminating the “handcuffing” policy, and

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THEREFOERE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI requests a bi-yearly mandatory unconscious bias training and de-escalation training, and implement a diverse variety of techniques to solve on-campus situations, and

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends, to take steps in becoming more transparent and accountable to students by frequently and accurately reporting all important data, including students in all UPD decision-making bodies in collaboration with ASI, hire police officers that reflect the campus community, and publish all budget allocations line by line, and

THEREFOER, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends that Cal State LA shall implement such changed outlined herein by June 1st, 2021. It is further resolved that Chief of Police, Larry Bohannon, shall create and publicly present a draft plan to ASI and the Academic Senate to implement these changes, including corrective action, and a specific written reply to each recommendation outlined, no later than May 1st, 2021.

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, including, but not limited to, the Cal State LA University President William A. Covino, Provost Jose A. Gomez, Vice President for Student Life Nancy Wada-Mckee, Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police, Vice President for Administration and Finance Lisa Chavez, Academic Senate Chair Talia Bettcher, and Chancellor Joseph I. Castro.



Diana Chavez
President
Associated Students, Inc.