



**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: 03/11/21

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, and

WHEREAS, the CSU states that, “Each of the California State University 23 campuses operates a police department, whose peace officers are sworn and certified by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). Each police/public safety department is charged with maintaining a safe campus environment by enforcing federal and state laws, CSU regulations, and the establishment of crime deterrence and prevention-related programs”², and

WHEREAS, the police killings of historically marginalized persons have increased especially within the unarmed Black and Hispanic community where both are overrepresented in the State of California. The Black population is 6.5%, yet the percentage of police killings of unarmed Black persons is 19.6%³. In addition, the Hispanic population is 39.4%, yet the percentage on

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

² <https://www2.calstate.edu/systemwide-campus-safety-security/Pages/university-police-departments.aspx>



police killings of unarmed Hispanic persons is 46.4%³. Furthermore, American Indian and Alaskan Native men and women face a higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than whites. American Indian men are 1.7 times more likely to be killed by police than white men and American Indian women are 2.1 times more likely to be killed than white women⁴, and

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 others⁵. 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

WHEREAS, in 2018, approximately 1,000 people in the United States were fatally shot by police officers and approximately 25% of those were people with mental illness⁶. It is not required for campus police to be trained on how to reduce risk of serious injury or death during an emergency interaction between persons and/or students with mental illness and police officers. Instead, the Cal State LA Police Department undergoes a process of handcuffing the student during a mental health crisis and search for weapons before transporting them to the hospital⁷, and

WHEREAS, 61 million or 26% of adults in the United States live with a disability including the following functional disability types: 13.7% mobility, 10.8% cognition, 6.8% independent living, 5.9% hearing, 4.6% vision, and 3.7% self-care. Additionally, 2 in 5 non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaskan Natives have a disability⁸, and

WHEREAS, Freddie Gray, Laquan MacDonald, Kevin Matthews, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Charleena Lyles, Sandra Bland, Quintonio LeGrier, Stephon Watts, Korryn Gaines, Natasha McKenna, Eric Smith, and Daniel Prude are Black individuals with disabilities who were victims

³ <https://calmatters.org/explainers/california-police-shootings-deadly-force-new-law-explained/>

⁴ <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>

⁵ 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>

⁶ [http://jaapl.org/content/early/2019/09/24/JAAPL.003863-19#:~:text=Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20\(CIT\)%20training,widely%20both%20nationally%20and%20internationally](http://jaapl.org/content/early/2019/09/24/JAAPL.003863-19#:~:text=Crisis%20Intervention%20Team%20(CIT)%20training,widely%20both%20nationally%20and%20internationally)

⁷ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Polices/iv-39_responding_to_persons_with_mental_illness.pdf

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>



of state violence⁹. Additionally, Milton Hall, James Boyd, Ezell Ford, Kajieme Powell, and Tanisha Anderson are people with psychiatric disabilities who were shot by police¹⁰, and

WHEREAS, an average of 41.6% of students in the CSU reported food insecurity in the low and very low food security ranges, including 49.0% of first-generation college students, 57.8% of EOP students, 62.9% of former foster youth, 46.7% of Dreamers, and 44.6% of DACA students¹¹, and

WHEREAS, an average of 10.9% of students in the CSU reported experiencing homelessness in 2018 including 24.9% of former foster youth, 14% of African American students, 13.4% of EOP students, 12.6% of students receiving Pell grants, 10.1% of Dreamers, and 9.1% of DACA students¹¹, and

WHEREAS, students experiencing food insecurity or homelessness, or both are at a higher risk for poor mental health¹¹, and

WHEREAS, an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to respond appropriately given an officer's commands or may be misunderstood as being difficult. Additionally, an individual on the autism spectrum may have difficulty maintaining eye contact or be perceived as displaying hostile or uncooperative behaviors. Furthermore, a person with cerebral palsy may be incorrectly assumed to be under the influence and subject to questioning due to abnormal gait, and

WHEREAS, historically, law enforcement agencies have lacked training in responding to crimes of violence against women such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking¹². In addition, it is not required for campus police to be trained on how to handle sexual assault cases specifically how to handle the victim undergoing trauma especially right after the incident, and

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<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/disability/news/2021/02/10/495668/understanding-policing-black-disabled-bodies/>

¹⁰ <https://www.aclu.org/blog/speakeasy/there-no-police-exception-americans-disabilities-act>

¹¹ https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/student-success/basic-needs-initiative/Documents/BasicNeedsStudy_phaseII_withAccessibilityComments.pdf

¹² https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/04-2018/iacp_resources_article.html,
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J012v18n03_04?journalCode=wwcj20



WHEREAS, the police department is the highest funded entity under the Public Safety budget. The total annual 2019-2020 budget for Public Safety was \$5,040,763.41 wherein the police department budget was \$4,912,658.84 compared to the other entities in the same overall budget. Things such as keys were \$39,690.29, emergency preparedness was \$77,703.30, and public safety was \$710.98¹³, and

WHEREAS, the University Police Department has a higher budget than most student-focused departments and resources such as the Educational Opportunity Program (\$2,185,183.35), Dreamers Resource Center (\$296,450.67), the Office of Students with Disabilities (\$1,172,281.16)¹⁴ and the Office of Equity, Inclusion and Discrimination which includes resources such as Title IX (\$653,650.93)¹⁵. Some of these departments like EOP have been subjected to defunding throughout the years while the police budget has been increasing, and

WHEREAS, the University Police are armed with department issued firearm- Glock 22, 40 caliber, Glock 17, 9., AR-15 platform, 223; department issued MP5' and authorized secondary weapons such as .38, .380, 9mm, .40 and .45 caliber firearms to be used during on-campus situations. 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 shots¹⁶, and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's (LACS) are known for their unfair treatment, and excessive use of force towards historically marginalized persons, corruption, and overall being a racist organization¹⁷, yet Cal State LA Police

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

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

¹⁵ <https://www.calstatela.edu/hrm/oedi>

¹⁶ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/iv-1_use_of_force_0.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.cpp.edu/~rreese/nonfla/RAMPART.HTML>, <https://www.npr.org/2017/04/26/524744989/when-la-erupted-in-anger-a-look-back-at-the-rodney-king-riots>, <https://www.npr.org/2020/11/11/933816870/la-county-coroner-investigates-andres-guardados-sheriffs-deputy-involved-death>, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/lapd-george-floyd-valentines-day-card_n_602a720dc5b6591becda596b



Department administration allows the University Police Department cadets to attend the LAPD basic academy training¹⁸ knowing that the university mainly serves students of color, and

WHEREAS, the last review of a bias-based profiling training was in 2018¹⁹ despite the current events around the nation where police discretion and police brutality towards historically marginalized persons have been deadly²⁰.

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 and trainings with local, county, and state police departments that do not agree in reforming contract terms that will benefit historically marginalized persons and community members. Furthermore, publish all existing contracts, memorandams of understanding, and other agreements with local, county, state, and federal agencies for transparency, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI requests eliminating aggressive police tactics such as but not limited to lethal firearms and excessive use of force during student protests, student events, and any other non-critical on campus situations, and commit to replacing it with non-lethal forms of accountability, non-excessive use of force, and implement a diverse variety of techniques to further solve on-campus situations, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI requests the University Police Department to 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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ASI recommends shifting at least 6% of funding from the police department budget to create a Center for Black Student Success which will provide academic, professional, and personal support and enrichment programming. Furthermore, it will serve as the central hub and campus home for Black student life, working with campus and local community members to ensure Black Collegiate success at Cal State LA, and

¹⁸ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/ii-2_training_career_development.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.calstatela.edu/sites/default/files/groups/Department%20of%20Public%20Safety/Policies/iv-34_bias_based_profiling.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/black-people-killed-by-police-in-the-u-s-in-2020/>,
<https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2020/know-their-names/index.html>



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends shifting at least 3% of the police budget towards the Title IX office that will help in hiring more staff, improve trauma informed sexual assault training, and provide more resources to students while improving their services, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends shifting at least 3% of the police budget towards CAPS to help in hiring 2 more full-time¹⁸ counselors that should be LPS certified¹⁸ in order to handle trauma-informed situations, improve and implement new trauma-informed approach trainings, and overall improve their mental health services, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends that if a crisis situation involves a person who may have a disability, University protocol should immediately involve a social worker or mental health counselor to interact with the individual and assist in de-escalation as opposed to Campus Police in order to ensure a positive outcome for the individual, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends that in order to take steps in becoming more transparent and accountable to students the Police department should frequently and accurately report all important data and publish all budget allocations of the police budget, line by line on a yearly basis, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends that statistics are maintained and made publicly available regarding specific demographic information including the “race, gender, and individuals” who are detained by campus police. Additionally, any removal or denial of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities should be documented. Furthermore, this demographic data should be recorded for any individuals who acquire disabilities during interactions with campus police, including those acquired by this misuse of force. Finally, this data should be recorded, maintained, and made publicly available by the Division of Student Life, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ASI recommends that in efforts to stand in solidarity with the statewide and nationwide movement of reforming police, Cal State LA shall implement such changes outlined herein by August 31st, 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

¹⁸ <https://www.calhospital.org/lps-act>



President for Student Life Nancy Wada-McKee, Director of Public Safety / Chief of Police Larry Bohannon, Vice President for Administration and Finance Lisa Chavez, Academic Senate Chair Talia Bettcher, Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Octavio Villalpando, Title IX Officer and Director of Human Resources Equity and Diversity Policies and Procedures Aundrea M. Cameron, Investigator/ADA Compliance Specialist Hannah Passano, College of Ethnic Studies Dean and Faculty, and Chancellor Joseph I. Castro.



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