

**Shared via Pacific Yearly Meeting
Peace and Social Order Committee**

Social Concern Minute

**La Jolla Monthly Meeting
Minute on Systemic Racism and Police Violence
June 14, 2020**

La Jolla Meeting Statement of Action

To Officials of the Cities and County of San Diego:

Quaker testimonies require us to examine our own behavior as individuals and as a group. We are also required to speak out when we see injustice, violence and oppression in the public realm. We must address systemic racism within ourselves, our social, religious, and economic institutions, and our civil society.

We are appalled by the scale of police violence against people of color. The brutal murder of George Floyd is yet one more consequence of a racist system that has disproportionately targeted people of color for violence, imprisonment, and death for many years. The killing of countless people of color in the custody of police officers must stop.

We thank the City and County of San Diego for the recent ban on chokeholds and strongholds announced by the San Diego Police Department and the San Diego County Sheriff. We urge city and county officials to take further steps to protect communities and police officers by considering the following measures:

1. Develop a system of community based policing, based on understanding and addressing community concerns and the hiring of officers from within the communities they police.
2. Strengthen independent police review boards in the cities and counties of San Diego, giving them subpoena power to review incidents involving officers, and a real voice beyond the advisory level. Institute such boards where they do not exist.
3. Examine hiring practices, training, and the work culture of law enforcement with an eye to eliminating both systemic and overt racism.
4. Promote policies, training, and procedures that address racism and encourage peaceful conflict resolution and de-escalation. Promptly remove officers who cannot adapt.
5. Roll back the militarization of law enforcement agencies where it has occurred, examining equipment acquisition and training. Keep the focus on protecting communities rather than controlling them, removing the roots of uprising and rebellion rather than suppressing them.
6. Consider limiting the role of the police to situations for which they are trained and needed. Explore alternatives outside law enforcement and the criminal justice system for such issues as homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence and substance addiction. Money saved can be redirected to fund such solutions as housing, rehab facilities, domestic violence shelters, and the hiring of social workers, mental health and medical professionals.

Choosing not to act is a choice too, and it is imperative that we work together to end the legacy of violence we have inherited from our history, both local and national. Too many people have lived in fear too long. We ask you to join together with the people of all races who have filled the streets of cities and towns of San Diego County and the US seeking fundamental change so that we may finally, and in truth, have justice for all. We ask you to act as if lives depend on it. They do.

James R. Summers, Clerk,
On behalf of La Jolla Monthly Meeting
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
14 June 2020