

Resolution requesting that the Memphis Police Department adopt “8 Can’t Wait” use of force reduction policies.

**WHEREAS**, violence against minorities, especially black people, by certain segments of the population has been a longstanding practice in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was adopted to curtail the violent, racist state-sanctioned antics against minorities who are unfairly targeted by authorities in the criminal justice system throughout this country; and

**WHEREAS**, minorities, not only in history, but in our time, have been devalued and dehumanized by authorities in the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2020, the murder of another unarmed black man, George Floyd, while in police custody, has caused protestors across the country to protest his death and the ongoing systemic racism that appears to be woven into the fabric of the criminal justice system in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, all Americans should consider it their call of duty to combat racism, both unconscious and conscious, throughout our communities and within the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, Campaign Zero, an anti-police brutality advocacy group, devised eight (8) policies, also referred to as “8 Can’t Wait” principals, for law enforcement agencies to implement to reduce and prevent violent encounters with criminal suspects and members of the public in general, e.g., civil protesters. According to Campaign Zero, “[r]esearch [from a 2016 study] shows more restrictive use of force policies can reduce killings by police [by up to 72%] and save lives.”<sup>1</sup> More specifically, the ‘#8cantwait’ recommended policies are: 1) ban chokeholds and strangleholds, 2) require de-escalation, 3) require warning before shooting, 4) exhaust all alternatives before shooting, 5) duty to intervene and stop excessive force by other officers, 6) ban shooting at moving vehicles, 7) require use-of-force continuum, and 8) require comprehensive

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<sup>1</sup> “A Project by Campaign Zero.” <https://8cantwait.org/> (Retrieved on June 7, 2020).

reporting each time an officer uses force or threatens to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the campaign for the 8 Can't Wait principals has gained traction across the United States and several cities, like the City of Pittsburgh,<sup>2</sup> Carlsbad Police Department,<sup>3</sup> Tampa Police Department,<sup>4</sup> to name a few, are embracing the program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memphis City Council calls upon the Memphis Police Department, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and other law enforcement agencies in Tennessee to revisit their use of force policies and form deep, meaningful, year-round relationships with local communities and their leaders to better understand the issues that impact their neighborhoods and perceptions about those charged with protecting and serving said communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council hereby requests that the Memphis Police Department adopt the '8 can't wait' principals to reduce and prevent violent encounters with criminal suspects and members of the public in general.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Memphis City Council applauds the Shelby County Board of Commissioners for their efforts to adopt this policy and their work with the Shelby County Sherriff's Office regarding implementation.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Memphis City Council requests that after review, the Memphis Police Department creates an updated Policies and Procedures Manual and updated training procedures and requirements reflecting any adopted "8 Can't Wait" Use of Force policy recommendations.

Sponsors:

Patrice J. Robinson,

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<sup>2</sup> Wadas, A. "City Of Pittsburgh Embracing '8 Can't Wait' Campaign Aimed At Reducing Police Violence." <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/06/04/pittsburgh-8-cant-wait-reducing-police-violence>. (Retrieved on June 7, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> "Carlsbad Police adopt "8 Can't Wait" force-reduction policies." <https://kusi.com/carlsbad-police-adopt-8-cant-wait-force-reduction-policies/> (Retrieved on June 7, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Gomez, G. "Tampa Police Department to adopt '8 can't wait' initiative after week of clashes with protesters." <https://www.fox13news.com/news/tampa-police-department-to-adopt-8-cant-wait-initiative-after--week-of-clashes-with-protesters> (Retrieved on June 7, 2020)

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