

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, the New Haven Teachers Association upholds the ideals of equal justice under the law, racial justice and human dignity for all of our students; And

WHEREAS, the recent deaths of Eric Gardner, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray and too many others, compel questioning of whether or not equal justice under the law is possible for young men of color – particularly poor, young men of color; And

WHEREAS, these deaths are indicative of a growing social-economic division threatening the current and future well-being of our students of color; And

WHEREAS, we recognize the toxic impact of the intersection of racism and the concentration of poverty that too many of our students experience; And

WHEREAS, while we recognize there have been some strides within police departments across the nation to engage in constructive dialogue and good faith efforts to improve relations between officers and communities of color and young people, there are still problems that exist and improvements that are needed in order to protect lives; And

WHEREAS, while we recognize that most police officers carry out the mission to protect the public in a manner that is honorable and professional, it is also true that incidents of racial profiling are still a very serious issue; And

WHEREAS, we express solidarity with the thousands of protesters in the Bay Area and throughout the nation who are peacefully expressing their outrage and frustration at the death of unarmed African-Americans; And

WHEREAS, the New Haven Teachers Association believes the lives of our black students matter and that all black lives matter; And

WHEREAS, the New Haven Teachers Association believes there exists a growing divide between the "haves and have-nots" in the American society that undermines the actualizing of a just and equitable treatment of black lives in the criminal justice system; And

WHEREAS, new Haven teachers Association believes there exists a growing divide between "haves and have-nots" in the American society that undermines actualizing participation of black lives in a robust economy; And

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage teachers to examine the concepts of equal justice under the law, racial justice and "institutional racism" in their classroom lessons and other academic spaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Haven Teachers Association supports Black Lives Matter forums, community meetings, and peaceful demonstrations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Haven Teachers Association will reach out to local police chiefs and the Police Officers Association to promote dialogue between educators and police officers in support of our young people in school and community; And

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the New Haven teachers Association joints with other schools, districts, labor and community groups to call for the creation of a national model for unity policing and well- funded, thoughtful programs that divert marginalize young people into academic and career programs, and an end to institutionalize racism in the criminal justice system.

Passed by New Haven Teachers Association's Representative Council on the 7th of December 2016.



Paul Stickland, President
New Haven Teachers Association