

The following Resolution was adopted by the Democratic National Committee at its meeting on March 10, 2018, in Washington, DC.

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Resolution Affirming the Effectiveness of Community-Oriented Policing Practices and Opposing the Militarization of Police in our Communities

WHEREAS, President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing identified dozens of recommendations directly relevant to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that are intended to foster “strong, collaborative relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they protect” by using effective strategies that support community policing, reduce crime and increase legitimacy of the public’s view of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, President Obama’s Executive Order 13688 was intended to monitor law enforcement’s acquisition of, use of and training practices related to certain types of military equipment used by local, tribal and state law enforcement agencies in an effort to (1) respond to public concerns of a growing “militarization” of law enforcement; (2) protect civil rights and civil liberties; and (3) ensure consistency across federal agencies to ensure that equipment acquired through Federal programs is appropriate to the needs of a community; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration issued a broad revocation of Executive Order 13688 in August 2017 and has indicated its intention to focus federal resources and technical assistance away from widely-supported community policing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, both the recommendations of President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the recommendations of the interagency Law Enforcement Equipment Working Group were developed or enacted in recognition that the public’s trust in law enforcement is eroding; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee supports law enforcement’s continued adoption and practice of evidence-based community policing strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic National Committee encourages reevaluating the recommendations pursuant to Executive Order 13688, which reflect common-sense, were developed with input from the law enforcement community and promote good governance at all levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence of the Executive Branch restoring the acquisition and training practices required by the Law Enforcement Equipment Working Group, Congress work to permanently establish a similar working group that has the authority to evaluate, at least annually, the policies and procedures that directly impact local, tribal, and state governments' ability to acquire and use military equipment.