

32 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA insists that we work to create trust and fairness in our legal
33 system by addressing systemic bias in the law to safeguard civil rights, civil liberties,
34 and justice for all;

35
36 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA recognizes the history of the unequal use of force against the
37 Black community;

38
39 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA affiliated Asian American and Pacific Islander bar associations
40 issued statements in solidarity with the Black community, including: the Minnesota
41 Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association of Houston,
42 Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado,
43 Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Tampa Bay, Asian Pacific American Bar
44 Association of South Florida, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania,
45 Japanese American Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the
46 Greater Washington, D.C. Area, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon
47 Valley, Greater Orlando Asian American Bar Association, Asian American Bar
48 Association of the Greater Bay Area, Korean American Bar Association of Northern
49 California, South Asian Bar Association of Northern California, Asian Bar Association of
50 Washington, Korean American Bar Association of Southern California, Asian Pacific
51 American Women Lawyers Alliance, South Asian Bar Association of Southern
52 California, Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles, Pan-Asian Lawyers
53 of San Diego, and the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association;²

54
55 **WHEREAS**, all of the bar associations above recognized the need for cross-racial
56 solidarity to dismantle systemic injustice, bias, and racism in policing;

57
58 **WHEREAS**, a call for change must be followed by action;

59
60 **WHEREAS**, NAPABA recognized the critical role of building trust between law
61 enforcement and communities of color and favoring policies that seek to build
62 relationships with the immigrant community that promote public safety over those that
63 engender mistrust;³

64
65 **WHEREAS**, the moment calls for a fundamental rethinking of how policing occurs in
66 communities all across the United States;

67

² The statements are available at https://www.napaba.org/page/20_06_Solidarity

³ See NAPABA “Statement in Support of Sanctuary Committees” (2017),
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.napaba.org/resource/resmgr/7_advocacy_&_research/policy_resolutions/2017/2017-01-18_sanctuary_city_re.pdf

68 **WHEREAS**, leaders across government - federal, state, local - must commit to a culture
69 of change within law enforcement, promoting community policing which starts from the
70 moment of initial training and reinforced consistently and repeatedly thereafter over the
71 course of an officer's career;

72

73 **WHEREAS**, diversity, inclusion, implicit bias, and de-escalation training for all law
74 enforcement officers is a critical element of this culture change;

75

76 **WHEREAS**, to ensure broad accountability and establish uniform best practices and
77 standards of conduct and professionalism, there needs to be high levels of
78 communication, collaboration, coordination, and cooperation among local, state and
79 federal governments, and their agencies, with meaningful involvement by the public,
80 including communities of color;

81

82 **WHEREAS**, use of force investigations, especially when the use of force leads to death
83 must be conducted fully, fairly, independently, with the utmost integrity, and with
84 transparency;

85

86 **WHEREAS**, leaders must explore innovative ways to bridge the gap in trust between
87 the community and their law enforcement organizations, including the recommendations
88 set out in the *Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing*,⁴
89 chaired by former Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner Charles Ramsey and
90 Professor Laurie Robinson of George Mason University; and

91

92 **WHEREAS**, other proposals to reform the criminal justice system have been offered by
93 elected officials, scholars, advocates, and activists, including the George Floyd Justice
94 in Policing Act (H.R. 1280, 117th Congress);⁵

95

96 **WHEREAS**, among the proposed reforms being debated, are the introduction of body
97 worn cameras, the creation of citizen review boards, the lowering of the criminal intent
98 needed to prosecute police officers engaged in misconduct, the reform of the qualified
99 immunity doctrine in civil actions, the creation of a national registry to track complaints
100 and police misconduct, the reporting of use-of-force incidents, and the incorporation of
101 community based policing strategies;

102

103 **WHEREAS**, justice demands that we collectively rise to the moment;

104

105 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAPABA:**

⁴ Available at https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf.

⁵ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1280/>

- 106 1. Stands in solidarity with the Black community, recognizing the historic impacts of
107 systemic bias in policing, and to resolve the systemic problems in the criminal
108 justice and policing system.
109
- 110 2. Condemns systemic bias within our criminal justice and policing system.
111
- 112 3. Supports measures to promote a culture of community policing, meaningful
113 accountability, training, and integrity, transparency, and data collection in use of
114 force investigations as outlined above.
115
- 116 4. Encourages its members to be part of efforts to identify and address systemic
117 bias in the criminal justice system.
118
- 119 5. Supports the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 1280, 117th) and
120 endorses the recommendations of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing.
121
- 122 6. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this
123 resolution to its members, affiliates, other bar associations, members of
124 Congress, the Administration, the press, and others to take steps to implement
125 this resolution, as they deem necessary.
126
- 127 7. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by
128 subsequent resolution.