

## Resolution Calling for the Resignation of Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan

**WHEREAS** the 2018 Washington State Democratic Party platform calls for “police forces to be demilitarized, be held accountable for abusive practices, and exercise restraint in their dealing with peaceful assemblies and protests;” and

**WHEREAS** Article V, Section 2 of the Seattle City Charter<sup>1</sup> states that “The Mayor shall see that the laws in the City are enforced, and shall direct and control all subordinate officers of the City, ... and shall maintain peace and order in the City”; and

**WHEREAS** the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police and the violent killings of Charleena Lyles, Che Taylor, Shaun Fuhr, Andrew Law, Austin Derby, Cody Spafford, Damarius Butts, Eric Evans, Henry Lee, Sr., Jack Keewatinawin, James Anderson, Joel Reuter, John T. Williams, Larry Flynn, Leonid Kalyuzhnyy, Martin Duckworth, Michael Taylor, Mike Kwan-Yu Chen, Raymond Azevedo, Sam Smith, Shun Ma, and Stephen Johnston by Seattle police has caused the people of Seattle to peacefully protest against systemic police violence against Black people nationwide and in our own city; and

**WHEREAS** the Seattle Police Department (“SPD”) has repeatedly targeted peaceful protesters, children, and reporters with tear gas, pepper spray, flash bangs, and other “crowd control” measures while covering their badge numbers with tape<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** in response to the ongoing Black Lives Matter Protests Seattle Police have repeatedly fired tear gas, a chemical weapon banned in warfare by the Geneva Convention, at peaceful protesters in the middle of a residential neighborhood harming protesters, nearby residents and even a small child<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Mayor Durkan has repeatedly declared restrictive curfews which infringe on the first amendment rights of protesters to peacefully assemble, have provided a justification for police to crack down on protesters, and which are unevenly enforced<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Mayor Durkan has shown no ability or desire to rein in the SPD or protect peaceful protesters and has defended officers obscuring their badge numbers, insisting that “Everyone in the city should have pride in [SPD’s] work”<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** in 2012 the Seattle Police Department entered a “consent decree” with the federal government due to a “a pattern or practice of excessive force that violates the U.S. Constitution and federal law”<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal\\_code?nodeId=THCHSE\\_ARTVEXDE](https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=THCHSE_ARTVEXDE)

<sup>2</sup> <https://southseattleemerald.com/2020/06/05/best-addresses-reports-of-officers-removing-badges-suspects-use-of-tear-gas-for-all-but-spd-swat-team/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/05/30/43799417/kid-at-seattle-protest-was-allegedly-maced-by-cop>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thestranger.com/slog/2020/06/03/43826667/slog-am-fifth-night-of-protests-in-the-city-seattle-under-several-day-curfew-inslee-extends-eviction-moratorium>

<sup>5</sup> <https://thecisforcrank.com/2020/06/01/durkan-praises-police-as-tear-gas-engulfs-city/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.seattlemonitor.com/overview/>

**WHEREAS** Mayor Durkan has collaborated with Donald Trump’s Justice Department in an attempt to lift the consent decree<sup>7</sup> before necessary accountability measures are in place<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** over the course of her term Mayor Durkan has escalated the cruel and wasteful practice of “sweeping” homeless encampments without providing shelter to those who are swept, resulting in the destruction of their belongings and doing nothing but forcing them to camp in another part of the city<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Mayor Durkan has continued the practice of homeless “sweeps” in the middle of a public health emergency against guidance from the Centers for Disease Control that says “If individual housing options are not available, allow people who are living unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are”<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** despite signing in November 2019 a FY20 budget of \$6.2 million for the nationally-renowned and effective Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD), Mayor Durkan attempted for three months to withhold \$3.5 million for that program until finally relenting under pressure from community and City Council<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Mayor Durkan has failed to uphold the values of the Democratic Party, has failed in her responsibility to keep the people of Seattle safe, and has lost the trust of the people of Seattle;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 37th District Democrats call on Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan to immediately resign as Mayor; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the event that Mayor Durkan refuses to step down as Mayor, the 37th District Democrats call on the City Council to use their powers of impeachment to remove her from office; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the event that Mayor Durkan remains in office for the remainder of her term that the 37th District Democrats call on our Democratic elected officials or qualified individuals, who are committed to truly reforming SPD, to consider running for Mayor and provide Seattle with a competitive mayoral election in 2021; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be publicized and sent to the office of the Mayor and all Seattle city council members.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://q13fox.com/2020/05/08/city-doj-file-motions-to-terminate-seattle-police-departments-consent-decree/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/judge-overseeing-seattle-police-reforms-orders-officer-accountability-fix-extends-federal-oversight/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://southseattleemerald.com/2020/05/27/opinion-mayor-durkan-if-you-care-about-public-health-stop-the-sweeps/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://thecisforcrank.com/2020/01/10/durkan-withholds-funding-for-nationally-recognized-lead-diversion-program/>