

2. Police Budget Resolution

Fund City Services not the Militarizing of our Communities!

WHEREAS the police have historically and presently been used by the ruling class to suppress worker and tenant power, especially in Black and brown communities, and

WHEREAS the quantity and quality of public services to our communities have shrunk for decades while police budgets balloon in size, and the most recent budget eliminates the Arts and Culture Budget completely, cuts the Parks and Recreation budget by \$13 million, Homeless Services by \$12 million, Libraries by \$9 million, Public Health by \$8 million, and

WHEREAS this leads to communities in Philadelphia being starved of resources then punished and incarcerated for it at the hands of the police, and

WHEREAS AFSCME affiliates, especially affiliates representing public safety officers, are encouraged to demand a seat at the table whenever reforms of policing and criminal justice are being considered. During those discussions, AFSCME leaders at all levels of the union are called upon to support and act consistent with the policies of resolution 4 adopted at the 44th national convention; and

WHEREAS AFSCME resolved to not support divestment from public services, including policing in resolution 4 adopted at the 44th national convention, and demands more funding for education, behavioral health, housing, social services, public facilities, and other programs and services which enhance the safety and well-being of the public. The setting of budget priorities and the proper allocation or reallocation of resources devoted to public safety should be decided at the community level, given each community's unique circumstances, size and needs and with due regard for the vital role played by the civilian employees who support public safety operations. AFSCME believes communities can benefit from having police responsibilities more tightly focused on public safety and criminal activity rather than being asked to perform duties unrelated to public safety such as health and social services; and

WHEREAS AFSCME has resolved to support substantial changes to the criminal justice system including:

- a. limiting when cash bail is required for nonviolent offenses and offering more liberal pretrial release;
- b. ending the use of racially biased risk assessment tools used to determine eligibility for pretrial release;
- c. diversion programs for drug offenses;

- d. commonsense sentencing reform that relies less on policies such as minimum sentences and “three-strike” rules;
- e. significantly restricting no-knock warrants to cases where there is evidence that an announcement by law enforcement would pose a danger to human life;
- f. ending the practice of arresting children for behavior that ought to be handled in the principal’s office. Instead, every school should have sufficient funding to employ guidance counselors, social workers, or school psychologists to help guarantee age appropriate student disciplinary practices. Security personnel at schools must focus on nonviolent resolution of conflicts with a minimal use of force; and
- g. supporting changes so people are not incarcerated for failure to pay fines or fees or have their driver’s license suspended for any reason unrelated to public safety, such as inability to pay fines or fees or child support; and

BE IT RESOLVED:

That AFSCME DC 47 calls for the funding of community-serving City programs including Parks and Recreation, Homeless Services, Libraries, Public Health, and Arts and Culture. DC 47 also demands hazard pay and personal protective equipment for our Union family in Sanitation, Water and other Essential Departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the federal government should stop militarizing police presence on the streets and substantially reduce funding for programs that militarize public safety. The federal government must redouble its efforts to keep law enforcement officers safe by providing body armor, and public safety agencies must meet their responsibility for adequately equipping officers so they may keep themselves and the public safe. AFSCME DC 47 condemns President Trump’s misuse of the National Guard and militarization of federal law enforcement agencies against civilians protesting in the wake of George Floyd’s murder; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

AFSCME DC 47 reasserts the right of all law enforcement officers to collective bargaining, due process and participation in our union. AFSCME stands in support of all workers, including law enforcement officers facing civil suit and potential liability for on the job conduct, being indemnified for legal fees and civil judgments.

**AFSCME DC 47 says NO to police brutality and overzealous police funding!
#FundOurCity!**

Adopted at the AFSCME District Council 47 Delegate Assembly on September 29, 2020.