



**MCA Resolution on Police Violence
against African Americans and Other Residents**

Whereas, the Board of the McLean Citizens Association (“MCA”) expresses its deepest regret and sadness to La Monta Gladney and our sincere condolences to the families of George Floyd and others who have suffered from similar acts of racial violence; and

Whereas, the MCA believes that bigotry, injustice and police brutality cannot be tolerated, and finds it abhorrent that any person would be treated differently, particularly by police officers exercising force, based on their skin color, country of origin, religion, sexual orientation, age or gender; and

Whereas, the MCA expresses its appreciation for the work of the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), and the risks they take to protect Fairfax County residents, and, at the same time, expresses its concern that more needs to be done to ensure that the FCPD officers are performing their duties in a racially neutral manner and are not using excessive force; and

Whereas, the white FCPD officer who used the taser on Mr. Gladney has been arrested, the FCPD quickly released body video camera (body-cam) footage of the incident, and the FCPD Chief of Police, and other county officials have condemned the officer’s actions; and

Whereas, the MCA recognizes that acts of racial injustice and excessive force by police, reflect abuses by individual police officers and do not represent the actions of all police officers; and

Whereas, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (FC BOS) and FCPD have taken steps in recent years to ensure that police officers receive additional training and oversight to prevent the use of excessive force and promote racially neutral policing. This includes, among other things:

- forming a civilian-based commission to review police procedures and recommend reforms, and implementing 179 of 202 actions the commission recommended;
- revising General Order (GO) 540, Use of Force to hold officers responsible for the highest regard for the sanctity of human life, dignity and liberty of all individuals (GO 540.0), direct police to use de-escalation strategies when possible to prevent use of force (GO 540.2), and require officers to intervene if possible to prevent

another officer from using excessive force and report such uses of force to supervisors (GO 540.3);

- implementing a program to require the use of body-cams by FCPD officers, which began on or about May 1, 2020, with provision of body-cams to three police districts, and is currently scheduled for completion by 2022;
- creating the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to review FCPD internal investigations involving shootings, in-custody deaths, and use of force cases resulting in death or serious injury, issuing public reports regarding investigations, reviewing resident complaints of alleged excessive or unnecessary use of force by officers, and issuing annual reports;
- creating an independent Civilian Review Panel, to review actions by FCPD officers including (1) the use of abusive, racial, ethnic or sexual language, (2) harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, familial status, or disability; and (3) reckless endangerment of persons in custody;
- contracting with a University of Texas researcher in January 2020 to examine whether the racial disparities in use of force by the Fairfax County police are the result of bias or other factors, with the study results slated to be released in early 2021; and

Whereas, a Stanford Law and Policy Review article in 2017 advised that 12 states allowed public disclosure of police discipline records and that 15 states permitted such disclosure under limited circumstances, but the Commonwealth of Virginia does not allow such disclosure; and

Whereas, FCPD Use of Force Reports from 2016 to 2019 state that use of force incidents were very rare – roughly 0.10% of all total contacts with the public – it is a point of concern that the total number of individuals involved in such events has risen from 507 in 2016 to 688 in 2019, a 35% increase; and

Whereas, these reports show that the number of individuals involved in all tracked racial groups except Asian has increased over that time period, and that the number with respect to African Americans has increased every year of the period from 198 in 2016 to 315 in 2019, a 59% increase, and that the percentage of African Americans who were subject to force in these incidents grew every year: 2016 – 39.05%; 2017 – 40.44%; 2018 44.4%; and 2019 – 45.78%; and

Whereas, the causes for increased use of force in total or among any specific demographic group should be understood, whether they be related to policing or to other areas of public policy, so that appropriate and effective remedies for the root causes can be implemented; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the MCA views the above training and oversight actions by Fairfax County and the FCPD as positive steps and will hold our County officials, most especially the FC BOS, accountable for ensuring the highest standards of decency and fairness and for the proper control of public safety personnel with respect to their dealing with the public, most especially African Americans and other minorities; and

Be it further resolved that the MCA urges Fairfax County to prioritize funding for accelerated implementation of body-cams for all FCPD officers by early 2021 as video of police actions is critical to ensuring use of reasonable force, racial justice, and accountability; and

Be it further resolved that the MCA urges Fairfax County and the FCPD to provide additional and ongoing training to FCPD officers regarding racial neutrality and identify and take rigorous disciplinary action, including removal, of officers who have a history of complaints of using unjustified force or abusive conduct towards African Americans and other minorities; and

Be it further resolved that the MCA urges the Virginia General Assembly to expand public access to police officer personnel records with respect to public complaints and disciplinary actions if an officer is criminally charged for actions involving use of excessive force; and

Be it further resolved that the MCA urges the FCPD to gather statistics on traffic stops and other police interactions with county residents and the race of the residents involved in those incidents and release those statistics to the public on an annual basis; and

Be it further resolved that the MCA urges the FCPD to take rigorous steps to promote racially neutral policing and expresses its support for the African American community and other minorities.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association July 1, 2020

McLean Citizens Association, P.O. Box 273, McLean, VA 22101

CC: Jeffrey McKay, Chair FC BOS
John Foust, Supervisor-Dranesville
Dalia Palchik, Supervisor-Providence
Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Bryan Hill, County Executive
Edwin Roessler, Chief of Police
Steve Descano, Fairfax County
Commonwealth's Attorney

Senator Barbara Favola
Senator Janet Howell
Delegate Kathleen Murphy
Delegate Rip Sullivan
Delegate Mark Keam
Delegate Mark Simon