



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

1617-FC03
Doyle, Sanchez

State University Plaza, N501
353 Broadway, Albany, NY 12246
P: (518) 320-1288 | F: (518) 320-1557
www.sunysa.org

MEMORANDUM 1617-FC03

TO: Members of the Student Assembly

**FROM: Bridget Doyle, Vice President, SUNY Student Assembly;
Daniel Sanchez, President, Purchase SGA**

ENDORSED BY: Black Lives Matter Subcommittee; Rules Committee

DATE: April 7, 2017

SUBJECT: Black Lives Matter

Action Requested

The following resolution was brought to the General Assembly by the Purchase Student Government Association at the Fall 2016 SUNY SA Conference. It was tabled by the Assembly pending review by a newly formed Black Lives Matter Subcommittee, Chaired by SUNY SA Vice President Bridget Doyle and Purchase SGA President Daniel Sanchez. The following paragraph is the action requested from the original document, which the committee stands by.

“The Purchase Student Government Association calls upon the SUNY Student Assembly to undertake and prioritize action combating systemic racism and its manifestation in police brutality through the formation of a Task Force. This resolution will also call to action the members of the Student Assembly, the SUNY Chancellor, and the SUNY Board of Trustees to prioritize action combating systemic racism and its manifestations with the assistance of the Task Force.”

Resolution

We, the students of the State University of New York, recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas On July 5, 2016, Alton Sterling, who was selling CDs on the sidewalk outside a convenience store in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was questioned and consequently tackled to the ground, pinned down, and fatally shot six times by two officers of the Baton Rouge Police Department; and,

Whereas on the following day, July 6, 2016, Philando Castile bled to death after being shot at close range, in the presence of his family, during a routine traffic stop by officers of the St. Anthony Police Department in Minnesota; and,

Whereas the stories of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile are only two of many deaths due to police brutality, and that many more incidents regarding police brutality towards the African American community have occurred; and,

Whereas in response to these most recent acts of racist police brutality, students from institutions throughout the State University of New York system including, but not limited to, The College at Brockport, the University at Albany, Purchase College and Monroe Community College took part in peaceful protests and vigils in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and thousands of others across the nation; and,

Whereas both members of the Executive Board and the Executive Committee of the State Assembly of the State University of New York have taken steps to oppose systemic racism and police brutality, including public statements by Executives and the passage of an Anti-Racism Resolution by the Executive Committee; and,

Whereas systemic racism and police brutality have created the perception that black lives do not matter; and,

Whereas implementing the changes to combat systemic racism begins with grassroots organizing or representative organizations; therefore, be it,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York affirms that black lives do matter; and be it further

Resolved that SUNY Student Assembly condemns acts of discrimination against the black community; and be it further

Resolved that this document in no way affiliates the organization of SUNY SA to the political affiliations that the Black Lives Matter movement does, other than the fact that we mutually agree that Black Lives matter, police brutality is wrong, and we should start calling on the New York State government to start looking to reforming their criminal justice laws so that everyone has a fair chance to making a happy life here; and be it further

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that SGAs within the State University of New York system prioritize working with their campus administration to ensure the implementation and following of anti-discrimination policies in their university police department; and be it further

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York condemn and actively seek to combat systemic racism and its manifestation in police brutality, terror, and oppression and recognize it as a major issue of the students of The State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York acknowledge, stands in solidarity with, and in consultation with the respective

student government associations of the State University of New York and will seek to actively support students who peacefully protest and engage in peaceful direct action in opposition to systemic racism and its manifestation in police brutality; and, be it further,

Resolved that it is recommended that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York establish a task force as a subcommittee of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York with the Chair of the task force be tasked with reporting directly to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York; and be it further,

Resolved that the Chair of the recommended task force be appointed by members of the Executive Board in consultation with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that the membership of the recommended task force be open to all students in the State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that the task force of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, develop and begin the implementation of meaningful and ongoing collaboration and outreach with Black students and their respective allies, at our State University of New York to determine how best to support, sponsor, and implement the changes they seek and deserve as students of a marginalized group at our State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that the recommended task force of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York create a comprehensive plan to combat systemic racism and police brutality within the State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that within 20 days upon its passing, the Student Assembly of the State University of New York will forward copies of this resolution of the SUNY Board of Trustees, the SUNY Chancellor, Commissioner of Police with the State University of New York, the SUNY Diversity Task Force, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY SGA Presidents, and any other pertinent governing bodies at the state, federal, or university level(s) and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.