

A Resolution to Abolish the University of California Police Department

Sponsors:

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WHEREAS, Black Panther and current political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal states:

Abolitionists are, simply put, those beings who look out upon their time and say, “No.” They want to abolish state policies that they cannot abide. Slavery. Mass Incarceration. The death penalty. Juvenile Life. Solitary Confinement.

Police Terrorism.

Those goals are worthy of the name. Only the fire and will seem to be lacking.¹

Let us recover their vision—and build new ones that soar towards the bright morning of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the oft-referenced charge of police is “to protect and serve,” yet police frequently act against that charge in surveilling Black people, suppressing labor organizing, and in general, engaging in white supremacist violence; and

WHEREAS, as stated by Mariame Kaba, “efforts to solve police violence through liberal reforms...have failed for nearly a century...The only way to diminish police violence is to reduce contact between the public and the police”²; and

WHEREAS, there is no substantive distinction between the University of California Police Department and local police departments. Policing at the UC began with Berkeley Police Chief August Vollmer in the early 20th century, who took lessons he learned from the Philippine-American War and applied them to policing, earning him recognition as “the Father of Modern Policing”;³ and

WHEREAS, a report by Civilytics Consulting called *Policing the American University* drew observations on the role of campus police departments in policing the boundaries of campus and surrounding communities, policing Black students and community members, and having origins in suppressing campus movements back in the 1960s;⁴ and

¹ <https://abolitionjournal.org/mumia-abu-jamal-long-live-john-africa/>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/12/opinion/sunday/floyd-abolish-defund-police.html>

³ <https://www.kqed.org/news/11847612/who-was-august-vollmer-and-is-he-responsible-for-the-modern-police-force>

⁴ <https://www.civilytics.com/publication/cpd-report/>

WHEREAS, UCLAPD currently spends approximately \$21 million⁵ dollars per year on the police department, with approximately 60 sworn officers and 40 non-sworn. This budget has steadily ballooned since the 2008 Great Recession, when many student programs were cut and tuition was raised;⁶ and

WHEREAS, a report released in April 2021 noted that “less than 10% of [UCPD-related] events [at UCLA] involve either force or the threat of violence...and more than 80% do not result in follow-ups for any asserted or possible crime”⁷; and

WHEREAS, Million Dollar Hoods found, through combing and cleaning UCPD records obtained via California Public Records Requests, that Black and Latinx Westwood residents were 19 and 2 times more likely than white residents to be stopped by UCPD; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 during the Tuition Hike Protests at UC Davis, Lt. John Pike doused several seated students at point blank range with pepper spray, and began a UC-wide and nationwide conversation about campus police reform;⁸ and

WHEREAS, in 2020 UC Santa Cruz deployed officers to police the Wildcat Strikes, organized by grad students for COLAs, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars. UCPD also utilized military surveillance technology provided by the California National Guard and the FBI to monitor students’ movements;⁹

WHEREAS, according to *State of Crisis: Dismantling Student Homelessness* by the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools found that 1 in 20 UC students are homeless or have experienced homelessness at some point in their college career;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS, Counseling and Psychological Services, the department providing students with direct psychological treatment, and the RISE Center, the department providing students with preventative care, are chronically underfunded, with 80 counselors serving a population of over 30,000 students and having to rely on frequently outsourcing services;¹¹ and

⁵ https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/pa/docs/pa_2017-2020_appendixa_wage-table.pdf

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/20/education/20tuition.html>

⁷ <https://escholarship.org/content/qt4jm4t63k/qt4jm4t63k.pdf?t=qs161f&v=lq>

⁸ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/uc-davis-pepper-spray-video_n_570fc93fe4b03d8b7b9fb62b

⁹ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/7kppna/california-police-used-military-surveillance-tech-at-grad-student-strike>

¹⁰ <http://transformschools.ucla.edu/stateofcrisis/>

¹¹ <https://dailybruin.com/2019/11/04/ucla-remains-vague-about-directing-donations-while-caps-remains-underfunded>

WHEREAS, students deserve to have their basic needs met and to have adequate access to healthcare, not to have resources funneled away into a bloated police force; and

WHEREAS, after the summer 2020 Black Lives Matter uprisings and the detainment of protesters in the UCLA-leased Jackie Robinson Stadium, the USAC joined the Divest/Invest Faculty Collective in a boycott of UCLA's proposed Public Safety Advisory Council on August 26, 2020 and demanded the creation of a Divest/Invest Council to examine where police funding could be best reallocated to support true campus safety¹².

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC stands in solidarity with Black, Brown, Indigenous, formerly incarcerated, and system impacted students who are disproportionately surveilled and criminalized by the UCPD.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on university administration to entirely abandon expansions of campus police, outlined in proposed policies known as the "Gold Book," and listen in good faith to student demands, and put those demands into practice.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC supports the demand of the No UCPD Coalition in defunding UCPD to be redirected into CAPS and RISE funding, as well as severing connections between UCPD and mental health crises.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on university and systemwide administration to affirm the humanity of its students, staff, and faculty and heed our calls to disarm, defund, and abolish the University of California Police Department.

12

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GoT_5aMSs_IXBxy6lnSkt7Dml_CLSpbretnBymNm0Q/edit?usp=s_haring