

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
51st JACL National Convention
National Council Meeting
Virtual
July 18, 2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, for far too long the United States has failed to properly address systemic racism and implicit bias against Black communities that have existed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, continuing to this day there are disproportionate police shootings, arrests, attacks, searches, excessive uses of force, and traffic stops of members of Black communities resulting in the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Stephon Clark, Daunte Wright, and far too many more; and

WHEREAS, use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of African American teen Trayvon Martin; and

WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, Inc. is a global organization in the U.S., U.K. and Canada, whose mission it is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes; and

WHEREAS, the United States, through all its institutions, federal, state, and local, including law enforcement, has not only discriminated against Black communities, but has also discriminated against Asian, Latin American, Native American, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities for hundreds of years; and

WHEREAS, a Black Lives Matter movement has its origin in the use of the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter, and has evolved into an organization of participants who have supported street demonstrations against the deaths of numerous African Americans by police actions or while in police custody; and

WHEREAS, in today's context, phrases such as "All Lives Matter" and "Blue Lives Matter" have been used to directly challenge and opposed the fact that "Black Lives Matter" to such an extent that the phrase "Asian Lives Matter" must be avoided and replaced with "Stop Asian Hate" or "Stop AAPI Hate" as appropriate; and

WHEREAS, longstanding violence and racism against Black communities implies that Black lives are devalued, all lives cannot matter until Black lives matter equally; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement is a response to the unacceptable discrimination and violence in policing and the institutional racism created by 300 years of slavery and 100 years of racist Jim Crow laws that persist to this day; and

WHEREAS, Black communities continue to be subjected to inequities and discrimination within all systems including, but not limited to, the justice, education, healthcare, employment, and housing systems; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for major reform in law enforcement which includes accountability, independent community oversight, de-escalation of force, just and equitable police policies and practices, opportunities to build community with the people they serve, and support and training for law enforcement to address any unresolved trauma they hold in their bodies and manifests as dangerous unconscious bias; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for investment in alternatives to law enforcement and in communities including, but not limited to, mental health services, housing services, substance use services, and restorative justice programming; and

WHEREAS, Black community leadership efforts have resulted in pioneering civil rights advances which have greatly benefited all people, including Asian communities; and

WHEREAS, past social justice efforts such as the Civil Rights Movement, show the importance of speaking up and working in solidarity to make significant social change for all historically marginalized communities; and

WHEREAS, the “model minority” myth has been created by those in positions of power and the media to oppress Black people and other people of color by pitting communities of color against each other; and

WHEREAS, the “model minority” myth has been exploited by some Asians to more closely align with whiteness and spread falsehoods about other communities; and

WHEREAS, the “model minority” myth in actuality stifles Asian advancement and perpetuates falsehoods about Asians and other people of color that reinforce stereotypes and perceptions of racial monoliths; and

WHEREAS, Asian communities, like all communities, also hold implicit bias and have contributed to anti-Blackness and racism; and

WHEREAS, Japanese American communities are very diverse and include Black Japanese Americans who also experience anti-Black racism from within and outside Japanese American communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League that members should actively support Black communities and other

communities whose civil rights, liberty, and well-being are being denied due to white supremacy and systemic racism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members must be intentional in actively working towards being anti-racist. To that end, all members must recognize their own personal biases, engage in self-reflection, make an effort to learn more about Black communities and other historically marginalized communities, and challenge racist attitudes, programs, policies and systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it falls within the mission of all Japanese American Citizens League chapters to build and strengthen relationships with local Black organizations and other local civil rights organizations to collaborate to address systemic racism and implicit bias; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is only when all communities work together and stand in solidarity that society's existing systems of oppression can be eliminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Japanese American Citizens League supports and will work towards the passage of the BREATHE Act, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, and other local and national policies that address implicit bias and systemic racism.


Co-Sponsored by: Berkeley Chapter Dated: 4/26/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Tara Umemoto Title: Co-President
Name (Please Print)

Signed: 
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Twin Cities Chapter Dated: 4/26/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Vinicius Taguchi Title: President
Name (Please Print)

Signed: 
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Florin Chapter Dated: 4/26/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Josh Kaizuka Title: Co-President
Name (Please Print)



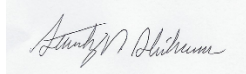
Signed: _____
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Seattle Chapter
(JACL entity)

Dated: 5/17/2021
Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Stanley N. Shikuma
Name (Please Print)

Title: President



Signed: _____
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: National Youth Student Council
(JACL entity)

Dated: 5/20/2021
Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Mieko Kuramoto
Name (Please Print)

Title: National Youth Rep



Signed: _____

Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Hoosier Chapter
(JACL entity)

Dated: 5/24/2021
Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Peter Langowski
Name (Please Print)

Title: President



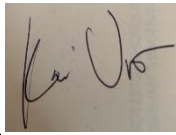
Signed: _____

Co-Sponsored by: Omaha Chapter
(JACL entity)

Dated: 5/24/2021
Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Kai Uno
Name (Please Print)

Title: President



Signed: _____

Co-Sponsored by: Detroit Chapter Dated: 5/25/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

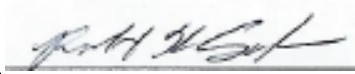
Approved by: Toshiki Masaki Title: President
Name (Please Print)



Signed: _____

Co-Sponsored by: St. Louis Chapter Dated: 5/27/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

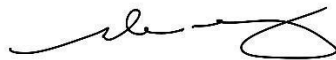
Approved by: Ron Sakai Title: President
Name (Please Print)



Signed: _____

Co-Sponsored by: Selanoco Chapter Dated: 5/27/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Nicole Inouye Title: President
Name (Please Print)



Signed: _____

Contact: Elizabeth Uno, Berkeley Chapter
Name

bethuno89@gmail.com
Email

(916) 607-3189
Telephone

Please check one:

Fiscal Impact Statement attached

___ **No Fiscal Impact** (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)