



Date June 28, 2021

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND IN PARTICULAR THE CITY OF DES MOINES IN MAKING THE CITY MORE INCLUSIVE AND IN DELIVERING POLICE SERVICES AND SUPPORTING THE CITY MANAGER AND THE POLICE CHIEF IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EQUITABLE SERVICE DELIVERY

WHEREAS, the entire country has faced the need to eliminate racial inequality and to improve the delivery of equitable municipal services and equitable police services and the City of Des Moines is no exception; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines strives for continuous improvement in service delivery, including the delivery of police services and, while not always successful in every aspect, the City of Des Moines has been working during the tenure of the current City Manager and City Police Chief to improve service delivery; and

WHEREAS, through numerous resolutions, ordinance amendments, the Bridge the Gap initiative and several policy revisions and creations, the City Council of the City of Des Moines has evidenced its commitment to eliminate racial inequality and improve the delivery of equitable police services; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Police Department (“the Department”) worked with Drake University to develop a new implicit bias training program which has received national recognition including an award from the National Distance Learning Association in 2020 and the curriculum has been requested by several law enforcement agencies since initial creation; and

WHEREAS, the Department has created its own de-escalation training and is working to improve the training by contracting for de-escalation training with an independent third-party provider; and

WHEREAS, the Department has engaged in continuous review and improvements in policy, training and operational best practice, prior to legislative mandates, in an effort to remain current with the expectations of the Des Moines community and cutting edges in the profession; and

WHEREAS, a vocal but small group of residents and non-residents routinely call for dismissal of the City Manager and Police Chief, and while the Council has heard those demands, the Council disagrees with them and wishes to state publicly that it has no intention of firing the City Manager and by law cannot and would not fire the Police Chief; and



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21-1022

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WHEREAS, the City's police officers face very difficult—if not impossible—circumstances every day in just doing their jobs and the Council acknowledges those circumstances while reinforcing that the City Council will continue to insist on demonstrable improvement in the equitable delivery of police services but wishes to once and for all make clear it supports the City Manager and Police Chief and rejects any and all demands that either should be fired.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Council acknowledges the difficulty of delivering equitable police services and insists upon the continuous improvement in the delivery of those services by the City Manager and Police Chief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL that while it has heard the demands of a small group of residents for the dismissal of the City Manager and the Police Chief, the City Council hereby affirms the work that the two have done to improve the equitable service delivery of the Department and further affirms the work that the two have outlined for continuing that improvement and hereby publicly states that it has confidence in both the Manager and the Chief and directs each to continue their efforts to improve equitable service delivery.

Moved by Gatto to adopt.

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE	✓			
BOESEN	✓			
VOSS	✓			
GATTO	✓			
GRAY	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

J. M. Franklin Cownie Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

P. Kay Cmelik City Clerk