



A Resolution to support the Say Her Name Campaign

Committee: Social and Economic Justice

Resolution: SEJ-20-01

1. **Whereas** the Say Her Name Campaign launched in December 2014 by the African
2. American Policy Forum (AAPF) and Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies (CISPS).
3. **Whereas** campaign brings awareness to the often invisible names and stories of Black
4. women and girls who have been victimized by racist police violence, and provides
5. support to their families.
6. **Whereas** according to the African American Policy Forum the Black women and girls as
7. young as 7 and as old as 93 have been killed by the police, though we rarely hear their
8. names. Knowing their names is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for lifting up
9. their stories which in turn provides a much clearer view of the wide-ranging
10. circumstances that make Black women’s bodies disproportionately subject to police
11. violence.
12. **Whereas** on March 13, 202, Breonna Taylor, a 24-year-old Black woman who was in her
13. own home when police killed her in Kentucky in March. Police tried to execute a warrant
14. for drugs at Taylor’s home — the wrong home — when her boyfriend suspected they
15. were burglars and legally fired his gun at the door. Police returned fire and shot them
16. both, Taylor fatally.
17. **Whereas** on October 12, 2019, Atatiana Jefferson, 28-year-old, was shot and killed on
18. Saturday, Oct. 12 in her Fort Worth home after a neighbor called the police for a
19. “wellness check” because her front door was reportedly open. Bodycam footage showed
20. she was shot within four seconds of the officer arriving.
21. **Whereas** On May 13, 2019, Pamela Turner a 45-year-old grandmother of three, was shot
22. and killed in Baytown, Texas, after an officer tried to arrest her for reportedly having
23. outstanding warrants. Disturbing video shows Turner’s last moments as she lay on the

24. ground and yelled “I’m pregnant” before she was shot and killed. A family member said
25. she had been battling mental illness.

26. **Whereas** On Aug. 1, 2016, officers arrived at the apartment of Korryn Gaines in
27. Randallstown, Maryland, to serve warrants for her and her fiance. A stand-off followed
28. that ended with Gaines, 23, being shot dead by five bullets and her 5-year-old son being
29. shot in the face. Gaines recorded the encounter on Facebook Live.

30. **Whereas** On Feb. 16, 2014, Yvette Smith, 47, was shot and killed by a Bastrop County,
31. Texas, officer after she called 911 hoping to quell a dispute between two men. When
32. Smith opened her door, the responding officer yelled “police” and shot her three seconds
33. later.

34. **Whereas** On Oct. 3, 2013, Miriam Carey, a 34-year-old dental hygienist, was driving in
35. Washington, D.C., with her 1-year-old when she reached a security checkpoint. Instead
of

36. stopping, she made a U-turn to go back the other way and police began to follow her.
37. Carey ended up being shot several times, including in the back and in the head, while her
38. daughter still in the car.

39. **Whereas** On Dec. 6, 2012, Shelley Frey was allegedly shoplifting at a Houston Walmart
40. and store workers alerted an off-duty officer, who reportedly tried to confront Frey and
41. her friend. Frey, 27, and her friends got into their car and attempted to leave and the
42. officer shot at the car; two bullets hit Frey in the neck as she sat in the passenger seat.

43. **Whereas** On Dec. 2, 2012, 16-year-old Darnisha Harris of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, hit
44. a police vehicle that was responding to reports of a shooting in the area. She put her car
45. in reverse, hit a parked car and a bystander, who was not seriously injured when she came
46. to a stop in a nearby driveway. An officer then got out of his cruiser and fatally shot her.

47. **Whereas** Malissa Williams, 30, got into a car with Timothy Russell on Nov. 29, 2012,
48. when someone called Cleveland police claiming they were going to buy drugs. When
49. Russell saw a vehicle following them, he sped up and dozens of police cars began to
50. chase the pair through the city. More than 100 shots were fired into the car and one
51. officer even stood on the hood of the car once it had come to a stop and fired 15 shots
52. into the car. Williams suffered 24 shots in the head, neck, body and left arm.

53. **Whereas** on June 14, 2012, Shantel Davis, 23, was reportedly driving erratically through

54. Brooklyn, New York, running several red lights until she crashed. Two plainclothes
55. officers approached her and tried to prevent her from driving off. While one officer had
56. his arm in her window, the car began to move and she was shot once in the chest. Davis
57. got out of the car and said she did not want to die before she was pronounced dead at the
58. hospital. No weapons were found in the car.

59. **Whereas** On March 22, 2012, Rekia Boyd, 22, was walking with a group of friends in
60. Chicago when an off-duty officer approached them to ask them to keep the noise down.
61. After some words were exchanged, the group walked away. The officer looked back and
62. claimed he saw a boy pull out a gun and began to shoot at the group. Boyd was shot in
63. the back of the head. It turned out the gun the officer saw was actually a cellphone.

64. **Whereas** On May 16, 2010, seven-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones was asleep in her bed
65. when Detroit police raided her family's apartment with a television camera crew looking
66. for a murder suspect. Officers began shooting upon entrance and struck Jones who was
67. sleeping on the couch.

68. **Whereas** On Jan. 4, 2008 during a drug raid, Tarika Wilson was shot and killed while
69. reportedly hiding behind a door. The officer, who blindly shot into the room, also hit
70. Wilson's one-year-old son that she was holding. He lost a finger during the incident.
71. Wilson, 26, was not the intended target of the raid — it was actually her boyfriend.

72. **Whereas** On Nov. 21, 2006, 92-year-old Kathryn Johnston was alone in her Atlanta
73. home when police executed a no-knock raid. Johnston fired one shot at the officers
74. believing them to be intruders and she was then shot at 39 times, only being struck by
75. five or six bullets. Officers, who raided her home on false pretenses, planted drugs in her
76. home when they found no evidence of wrongdoing. The officers also went on to falsify
77. documents and lie to their superiors about the incident.

78. **Whereas** On May 5, 2003, a Portland, Oregon police officer pulled over a car in which
79. 21-year-old Kendra James was a passenger. The officer claimed James, a mother of two,
80. had a warrant for failing to appear in court and detained the other two people in the car.
81. Leaving her alone in the car, James allegedly climbed into the driver's seat and tried to
82. drive off. The officer, who was partially in the driver's window, shot James claiming he
83. thought she was going to drag him. After shooting her, he left her unattended instead of
84. offering assistance before medical personnel arrived.

85. **Whereas** On Dec. 28, 1998, Tyisha Miller, 19, was unconscious in her car with a gun in
86. her lap at a Riverside, California, gas station. Her cousin and friend called the police but
87. when the officers arrived they were not able to wake up Miller either. So they broke a
88. window, which may have startled the teen. Police claimed she reached for a gun before
89. they shot her 12 times.

90. **Whereas** there are countless other black women, femmes and girls that names will never
91. be known and families that will forever be torn apart by fatal and near-death police
92. violence.

93. **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the National Organization of Black Elected
94. Legislative Women supports the Say Her Campaign by highlighting the black women and
95. girls that are victims of a police shooting. NOBEL Women will address racism, sexism
96. and other forms of oppression in effort to end police shootings across the world.

97. **Be in finally resolved** that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative
98. Women will work with groups like the African American Policy Forum to share
99. resources and action items with Black Women Legislators Across the nation.

References:

1. [Say Her Name: Black Women, Girls Killed By Police Officers | NewsOne](#)

Introduced by the Honorable Raumes Akbari
Tennessee General Assembly