

**WHEREAS** progressive action against injustice is a core part of our Democratic Party Platform;

**WHEREAS** we take note of and recognize that law enforcement has a unique role in our communities;

**WHEREAS** we affirm the role of law enforcement to protect human life and believe that accountability and public trust are a key part of law and order;

**WHEREAS** in Washington State, like the rest of the nation, law enforcement use of deadly force has a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, particularly persons of color, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, youth, immigrants, with a disproportionate impact on the Black community and Native Americans, and with data showing that one-quarter of uses of deadly force involve a person with mental health issues;

**WHEREAS** the duty to preserve life and protect the community also includes the underlying respect for humanity, and a duty to render first aid at the scene;

**WHEREAS** the law in Washington state on the use of deadly force by law enforcement (RCW 9A.16.040) has been called the most “egregious” in the nation due to a de facto immunity for unjustified use of force;

**WHEREAS** the public needs confidence in the review of use of deadly force, particularly when it results in death or serious injury, and has called for independent investigations to provide for a credible outcome;

**WHEREAS** Initiative 940, which is an initiative to the Legislature, calls for violence de-escalation, mental health and first aid training, requires that first aid be rendered at the scene, removes the de facto immunity and replaces it with an objective and subjective good faith test, both of which must be met, requires a completely independent investigation, and includes diverse community members at the table to develop policies;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 47<sup>th</sup> District Democrats call for widespread support through signature gathering to assure that Initiative 940 qualifies for the ballot, encourage coming to the table with law enforcement at all levels in this work, and will work for the passage of Initiative 940 during the 2018 legislative session; and will pursue its passage through to the November 2018 general election should that be necessary.