



HR1410

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Police in the United States killed approximately  
3 102 unarmed black people in 2015, a rate of nearly two each  
4 week; nearly one in three black people killed by police in 2015  
5 were identified as unarmed; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2015, 37% of unarmed people killed by police  
7 were black despite black people being only 13% of the U.S.  
8 population; unarmed black people were killed at five times the  
9 rate of unarmed whites in 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, Only 10 of the 102 cases in 2015 in which an  
11 unarmed black person was killed by police resulted in criminal  
12 charges against the officer or officers involved, with only two  
13 convictions; and

14 WHEREAS, Police shootings of unarmed individuals are not a  
15 recent phenomenon; on February 4, 1999, Amadou Diallo, a  
16 23-year-old immigrant from Guinea, was shot and killed by four  
17 New York City Police Department officers when they fired a  
18 combined total of 41 shots, 19 of which struck Diallo; and

19 WHEREAS, On August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Missouri, Michael  
20 Brown, an 18-year-old black man, was fatally shot by a white  
21 police officer; the disputed circumstances of the shooting

1 further inflamed existing tensions in the predominantly black  
2 city, where protests and civil unrest erupted; the events  
3 received considerable attention in the U.S. and elsewhere and  
4 generated a debate about the relationship between law  
5 enforcement and African Americans; it also created a national  
6 dialogue about the use of force, concerns over insensitivity to  
7 the local community, and the militarized response of the police  
8 to the situation; and

9 WHEREAS, Laquan McDonald was killed in Chicago on October  
10 20, 2014 when he was shot 16 times in 13 seconds by a Chicago  
11 police officer; video of the shooting shows that McDonald fell  
12 to the ground after the first shot was fired; the officer  
13 stopped firing for a moment, then opened fire again when  
14 McDonald moved; the officer was on the scene for less than 30  
15 seconds before opening fire and began shooting approximately  
16 six seconds after exiting his car; another officer stated that  
17 he did not see the need to use force and none of the at least  
18 eight other officers on the scene fired their weapons; and

19 WHEREAS, On December 26, 2015, Quintonio LeGrier was shot  
20 six times by police after allegedly swinging a baseball bat at  
21 the officers when they responded to a 911 call he placed  
22 regarding his father; the shooting also left, 55-year-old  
23 Bettie Jones, who lived at the address, fatally wounded in what  
24 police labeled an accident; and

1           WHEREAS, Rekia Boyd, a 22-year-old African-American woman,  
2 was fatally shot on March 21, 2012 in Chicago by an off-duty  
3 Chicago police detective; he approached a group of four people  
4 who were walking down an alley and admonished them for talking  
5 too loudly; the group turned to leave and the officer fired  
6 multiple shots into the group from inside his car, hitting Boyd  
7 in the back of the head killing her; the officer claimed that  
8 he mistook a cell phone for a handgun; and

9           WHEREAS, Although not shootings, Eric Garner, Sandra  
10 Bland, and Freddie Gray all died in circumstances that seemed  
11 to have been unnecessarily escalated by police; therefore, be  
12 it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 urge changes in the manner in which police officers are trained  
16 when dealing with the public; these changes should include (1)  
17 de-escalation - talking to and calming down agitated,  
18 weapon-wielding suspects and suspects who run away and then  
19 struggle when they are caught; (2) cultural sensitivity -  
20 police should take into account the perceptions minority groups  
21 (Black, Latino, Muslim) have of the police and how those  
22 perceptions may influence their actions; (3) community  
23 engagement - officers being aware of the character of a

1 community so that everyone in a particular community is not  
2 treated like a potential lawbreaker.