

RESOLUTION NO. 20-10

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE VILLAGE OF THE RIVER FOREST'S PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Village of River Forest ("Village") is a duly organized and validly existing municipality created in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and the laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes that the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the loss of far too many Black lives to list at the hands of law enforcement officers has left our nation anguished and outraged; and

WHEREAS, these killings, and the others like it, have all Americans justifiably demanding nationwide reforms to law enforcement and criminal justice systems to protect all citizens, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the infringement or denial of their civil rights; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies have been called upon to respond to situations that are better left to others in order to fill a void created by the lack of needed supportive programs including school discipline, eviction enforcement, addiction and substance abuse, where others may be more appropriately trained to help those in need, despite additional training resources that have been provided to law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, reductions in State and federal budgets to needed mental health services, substance abuse and recovery services, offender reentry programs, educational and vocational training opportunities, programs that promote economic improvement, and programs that reduce homelessness, have left these needed services and programs underfunded for too long; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes that the issues in our criminal justice system, including the adverse impacts of overcriminalization on minorities, extend well beyond just the behavior of police officers, and that, while national change is required, local action is where the Village can begin making the most immediate difference; and

WHEREAS, the Village President and Board of Trustees ("Corporate Authorities") recognize that only through listening, learning, healing and substantive action will we all work to ensure that law enforcement officers can continue to serve this community ethically and professionally; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities recognize and hold in high esteem the service the River Forest Police Department ("RFPD") provides to the community when immediate help is needed and their willingness to support, promote, and participate in

systemic reforms to bring about the changes needed, including the rethinking of their roles and functions in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities, as leaders of this community, along with the RFPD and all Village staff and officials, value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value and that all persons should be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the Village rejects discrimination toward any person that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or familial status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Incorporation. That each Whereas paragraph above is incorporated by reference into this Section 1 and made a part hereof as material and operative provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 2: Principles for the Relationship Between the Community and Law Enforcement. That the Village affirms the following principles regarding the relationship between the community and law enforcement:

1. The Village endorses the six pillars in the report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The first pillar is to build and rebuild trust through procedural justice, transparency, accountability, and honest recognition of past and present obstacles.

2. The Village endorses the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice (i.e., an opportunity for citizens and police to believe they are heard), transparency and impartiality.

3. The Village endorses the values inherent in community policing, which includes community partnerships involving law enforcement, engagement of police officers with residents outside of interaction specific to enforcement of laws, and problem-solving that is collaborative, not one-sided and works with the community, not against it.

4. The Village believes that developing strong ongoing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color at the leadership level and street level will be the keys to diminishing and eliminating racial tension.

5. The Village believes that law enforcement and community leaders have a mutual responsibility to encourage all citizens to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the law to assist them in their interactions with law enforcement officers.

SECTION 3: Implementation of Principles. That the Village vows to work together and stand together in the community and at the State level to implement the values and principles in this Resolution, and to replace mistrust with mutual trust wherever, whenever, and however the Village can, by:

1. Requiring de-escalation training for Village law enforcement officers to ensure the safety of all. The Village endorses using de-escalation tactics and enhanced communication methods to reduce the potential for confrontations that endanger law enforcement officers and the public and supports the principle that human life should be taken only as a last resort.

2. Requiring the review and modification where needed of the RFPD's use of force policies, reporting requirements and pursuit reports.

3. Requiring transparent review of RFPD policies, training initiatives, services, and officer behavior, including through the use of technology to document and audit events, officer actions, and citizen encounters, and through the formal review of use of force events including whether officers gave verbal warnings prior to using deadly force and/or warning shots, and whether the use of force was necessary to mitigate the threat and evaluate if less injurious options were available.

4. Reaffirming that the RFPD does not seek approval from judges, apply for, or execute no knock warrants, train in or use chokeholds on arrestees or members of the public or shoot at moving vehicles, as they are outside the RFPD's Use of Force policy and can be considered deadly force, and requires officers to intervene and immediately stop any excessive force used by other officers, and report events immediately to supervisors.

5. Supporting efforts by the Village's Board of Fire and Police Commissioner to diversify the RFPD and recognize that law enforcement and communities have a mutual responsibility and should work together to make a concerted effort to recruit, promote and retain a diverse police department.

6. Continuing to create and provide opportunities that allow the RFPD to engage in the free exchange of diverse ideas and experiences with courtesy, sensitivity, and respect, opportunities for collaboration and constructive strategies to engage in honest disagreements.

7. Including through the addition of a Civil Rights-Vulnerable Population section to the existing Crime Prevention program to focus on minority and other protected class-related initiatives.

8. Continuing to ensure the proper screening, education and training of all RFPD Police Officers to keep them accountable for conduct that does not comply with the Village's policies and standards.

9. Supporting legislative efforts to reform and rescind Illinois Criminal Code and Illinois Vehicle Code sentencing guidelines that require mandatory minimums, excessive sentencing and incarcerations that disproportionately target and promote inequality for minorities and other vulnerable populations.

SECTION 4: Notice of Resolution Adoption. That the Village shall work collaboratively with the community to widely publicize the adoption of this Resolution throughout River Forest.

SECTION 5: Repeal. That all resolutions, motions or parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6: Effectiveness. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption and approval according to law.

ADOPTED this 22nd day of June, 2020, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED this 22nd day of June, 2020, by the Village President of the Village of River Forest, and attested by the Village Clerk, on the same day.

Catherine Adduci, Village President

ATTEST:

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk

EXHIBIT A
President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing

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