

UUP-Buffalo Center Chapter Membership Meeting, June 24, 2020

### **Adopted Resolution in Support of Protest for Social Justice and Non-Violent Policing**

Whereas UUP stands with all who are affected by racial injustice, affirms its anti-racist stance, and supports peaceful protesters across the country demanding justice and demanding change, and

Whereas UUP has a long history of commitment to social justice, stands steadfast by the commitment today, and affirms the need to end systemic racism that continues across every aspect of American society, and

Whereas the labor movement in United States has had a conflicted history over issues of racism within its individual unions and larger affiliations, and

Whereas the University at Buffalo campuses are located in the City of Buffalo, and UUP-Buffalo Center Chapter members work, conduct business, and have civic responsibilities in the city, and

Whereas the public murder of George Perry Floyd, Jr., in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020 sparked outrage around the country against police violence, and

Whereas protests in the City of Buffalo in the wake of Floyd's death were met with violent police reactions, including the assault of 75-year-old Martin Gugino, resulting in a fractured skull (<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/buffalo-police-brutality-gugino>), and

Whereas at least 15 cases of police brutality in Western New York resulting in serious injury or death have been reported, 13 of whom were of people of color, including the deaths of four young men in the last four years (Wardel "Meech" Davis, Jose Hernandez-Rossy, Rafael "Pito" Rivera, and Marcus Neal) (<https://www.wkbw.com/news/i-team/15-cases-of-alleged-police-brutality-excessive-force-in-wny-since-2006>), and

Whereas former police officer Cariol Horne was fired and lost her pension after she intervened to stop the choking of an African American man in handcuffs by Officer Gregory Kwiatkowski in 2006, an officer who later pleaded guilty in 2018 and was sentenced to four months in prison after admitting to using excessive force and racist language against four African American teenagers in 2009 (<https://www.wkbw.com/news/i-team/15-cases-of-alleged-police-brutality-excessive-force-in-wny-since-2006>, <https://www.strategiesjustice.com/cariols-law>), and

Whereas the Common Council of the City of Buffalo has asked that Cariol Horne's firing be re-examined with consideration that her pension be awarded (<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/16/878853014/buffalo-common-council-asks-attorney-general-to-revisit-cariol-hornes-case>), and

Whereas the City of Buffalo spends a substantial portion of its budget on policing, along with costly settlements of \$4.5 million due to police shootings, and has even increased the annual 2020-21 budget for policing despite the public calls against it

(<https://www.investigativepost.org/2020/02/04/police-shooting-costs-buffalo-4-5-million>,  
<https://news.wbfo.org/post/buffalo-police-budget-passed-full-despite-calls-defund>),

Be it Resolved that the Buffalo-Center Chapter of UUP condemns systemic racism and its manifestation in police violence against African-American, Indigenous and Latino/Latina residents across the country, including in our city, and

Be it further Resolved that the Chapter opposes the militarization of police and its impact on communities of color and on peaceful protests, and

Be it further Resolved that the Chapter opposes exploitation and manipulation of the labor movement and workers' rights for any continuation of violence and lack of accountability of police officers toward African Americans and any others, and

Be it further Resolved that the Chapter supports the passage of Cariol's Law, which includes a mandatory statute on police bystander intervention, provides protection from retaliation, requires external investigation with mandated reprimanding for abuse or misconduct, and creates a required reportable registry, and

Be it further Resolved that the Chapter supports the Common Council resolution for consideration to reinstate Cariol Horne's pension, and

Be it finally Resolved that the Chapter supports reallocation of Buffalo resources from policing toward investment in Buffalo's low-income communities of color.