

Charlotte County's Response to the BLM Movement

Charlotte County Democratic Party Recommendations

WHEREAS national outrage has erupted in response to racial profiling of people of color that too often have led to murders by police without an adequate national response, hence local action is required, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte County Democratic Party will share the following recommendations with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and the Punta Gorda Police Department:

1. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department patrolling officers utilize body cameras during all interventions and ensure public access to such recordings. The implementation plan and timeline are publicized, with a target introduction date no later than September 1, 2020.
2. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department ban use of any restraints or restraining methods that may impede breathing when arresting people..
3. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department increase transparency and accountability for all officers, especially those with records of misconduct.
4. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department re-negotiate, with a goal to eliminate, unduly favorable protections for officers in police union contracts and law enforcement officers' 'Bills of Rights'.
5. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department re-negotiate existing agreements with police unions to improve the effectiveness of investigation and discipline for officer misconduct attributed to racial bias.
6. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department research, review and document the prior and current employment history of officer candidates, including their social media footprint to ensure the absence of racial bias and/or violence; take immediate documented disciplinary actions to include counseling/retraining and/or terminating employment of any officers who have demonstrated or exhibited actions indicative of racial bias; for those terminated, eliminate any possibility of further or future law enforcement employment within the state of Florida; and ensure all officers and organizations are properly accredited.
7. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department continually work to increase its diversity to include minority representation with the goal to best represent and facilitate cooperation with the communities served, increase public awareness, and to address public and internal perceptions of police officers of color.
8. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department conduct nationally accredited new hire and ongoing sensitivity training programs; train all officers continually, at a minimum yearly, how to deploy best de-escalation tactics, better respond to people in mental health crises, domestic disputes, neighborhood disturbances; better assist in the prevention of misconduct and to offer/call for prompt

medical attention; assist officers to better understand, communicate and respect the diverse community they serve to promote a two-way trust.

9. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department publicly release quarterly demographic statistics that include the individual's self-identified racial identity for each interaction with officers including but not limited to traffic violation stops, any arrests, any use of force, and use of any weapons for the purposes of transparency and detecting, deterring, preventing, and correcting any racial bias.
10. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department establish and fund independent civilian oversight boards with balanced, diverse representation and investigative and subpoena power in all cases where police kill or seriously injure people.
11. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department strengthen policies to protect human life and rights by investing in the communities they serve to reduce arrests, e.g. through issue de-escalation by trained counselors and social workers, responding to mental health and drug crises with healthcare professionals.
12. Charlotte County Sheriff's Office and Punta Gorda Police Department do not utilize face surveillance systems since they have been found to have racially biased error rates against people of color.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Charlotte County Democratic Party will issue these recommendations to, and request feedback from, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell and Punta Gorda Police Chief Pamela Davis, with a copy to Punta Gorda Mayor Nancy Prafke, the Punta Gorda City Council, the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, Charlotte County Administrator Hector Flores and local media.

FURTHERMORE, the Charlotte County Democratic Party will request that Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott support passage of S. 3912, the Justice in Policing Act. If this Act does not come to the floor for a vote, the Senators will be asked to introduce a bipartisan bill in cooperation with the House of Representatives to appropriately address these policies at the Federal level during the current legislative term.

Signed electronically on July 6, 2020:

Richard Patrick, Charlotte County Democratic Party Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair,
Vielka Rivera Wambold, Charlotte County Democratic Party Hispanic Caucus Chair,
James Abraham, Charlotte County Democratic Party Precinct 36 Captain, and
Francis Dance, Charlotte County Democratic Party Communications Chair