

RESOLUTION BY GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL
TO
THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, cities all across our Nation and State face historic challenges of race and policing; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of Greensboro, along with cities across the nation, are engaging in serious ongoing dialogue to better understand the history of policing in our city and to take action seeking solutions to what many experience as an abuse of police power, whether explicit or implicit and

WHEREAS, the intensity of these national and local dialogues has increased significantly since the tragic police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014 and the continued police shooting deaths of many others thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the recent tragic shooting deaths by police in Minneapolis and Baton Rouge have further intensified the appearance that people of color, particularly African Americans, have become targets of police abuse and violence, and

WHEREAS, the recent tragic shooting deaths of five Dallas police officers and wounding of others has added to the intensity of debate and divided the people of our nation and its cities, and

WHEREAS, these issues present profound moral and legal issues that risk fracturing our communities, and

WHEREAS, a divided nation cannot stand strong and cannot achieve its goal of being the United States of America with equal justice for All, and

WHEREAS, one important tool for insuring transparency and accountability in arriving at truth and justice to the end that all lives matter is public access to all police video recordings of these incidents past, present, or future, and

WHEREAS, public access to police video will serve to equally benefit citizens and law enforcement alike in the search for the truth, and

WHEREAS, the People's Ordinance (Attached) regarding the release of police video provides an appropriate balance between the public's right to know, such right being essential to a self-governing democracy, and the reasonable protection of individual privacy rights and the rights of the State and those accused in criminal investigations and prosecutions, and

WHEREAS, the recent passage by the General Assembly and signing by the Governor of HB 972 (also known as the Faircloth Bill) fails to strike any balance between those above rights and interests and instead makes public release of police

video nearly impossible and, further, HB 972 denies the right of Greensboro and other city residents to enact through their elected city councils any ordinance or policy providing for public access to police video subject to reasonable exceptions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT GREENSBORO CITY COUNCIL:

1) HEREBY calls on the General Assembly to immediately repeal HB 972 (the Faircloth Bill), and

2) HEREBY challenges the General Assembly's usurpation of our basic right of local self-government and enacts and adopts, regardless of the action of the General Assembly, the People's Ordinance to provide for the policy and procedure by which to determine if and when Greensboro police video of any type should be released to an individual requester or the public in general.

BE IT SO RESOLVED THIS ____ DAY OF JULY, 2016

City of Greensboro Council

