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Adopted  
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## Sonoma County Democratic Party

111 Sebastopol Road  
Santa Rosa, California 95407  
707-575-3029

<http://www.sonomademocrats.org>



1                   **SONOMA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**  
2                   **SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF CITIZENS' REVIEW BOARDS IN SONOMA COUNTY**

3   **WHEREAS**, the tasks of a law enforcement officer are extremely demanding, dangerous and  
4 complicated, requiring an understanding of the law and the community as well as physical  
5 stamina and a sound psychological state of mind; and the overwhelming majority of law  
6 enforcement officers are good, but there persists a small, yet significant percent of law  
7 enforcement officers who engage in excessive force, abuse of authority, discourteous and/or  
8 racial, religious, misogynist, ethnic and homophobic slurs; and police misconduct continues to  
9 be a serious and substantial problem in Sonoma County; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the population of Sonoma County is racially and ethnically diverse, but many law  
11 enforcement departments, particularly in their supervisory ranks, do not adequately reflect their  
12 community's diversity; and racial profiling is a persistent feature of police stops and arrests; and

13 **WHEREAS**, current procedures for investigating incidents of alleged law enforcement officer  
14 misconduct in Sonoma County do not always fulfill their intended goal, hampered in many  
15 instances by the blue wall of silence; and even when complaints are substantiated, law  
16 enforcement officers are either not disciplined or are inadequately disciplined; and

17 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee  
18 urges the formation of a citizens' review board with subpoena powers to provide oversight of the  
19 Sheriff's Department and the municipal police departments in Sonoma County; and that the use  
20 of non-lethal weapons and appropriate training be mandated when appropriate in all law  
21 enforcement jurisdictions, particularly when dealing with Emotionally Disturbed Persons  
22 including persons suspected of drug use; and that trained psychiatric technicians be the first to  
23 contact & interact with emotionally disturbed persons; and that police departments be required  
24 to produce and make public via its internet web sites an annual performance report that includes  
25 disciplinary actions, policies, and practices related to police misconduct, and that all jurisdictions  
26 also produce racial statistics of all citizens stopped by the police, in order to determine or  
27 substantiate cases for racial profiling offenses by police departments; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sonoma County Democratic Central Committee  
29 distribute copies of this resolution to members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,  
30 members of the city councils of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa  
31 Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor, members of the US House of Representatives,  
32 California Senate, and California Assembly representing Sonoma County, such media outlets as  
33 the Public Relations Committee may deem appropriate; and to Democratic clubs in Sonoma  
34 County for consideration and support.

35 Sponsored by Thomas Gangale  
36 Chair, Issues and Legislation Committee, Sonoma County Democratic Party

37 Adapted from New York Civil Liberties Union via Sanders, Sanders, Block, Woycik, Viener & Grossman  
38 <http://www.ssbwlaw.com/dir.asp?find=policebrutality>

39 Amended by Don Frank, Treasurer, Sonoma County Democratic Party

*Common Sense, Common Good, Common Destiny*