

**RESOLUTION NO. 653  
PASADENA AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
PASADENA CITY COLLEGE**

**DENOUNCING THE KILLING OF UNARMED BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN  
CITIZENS AND AFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO BLACK/AFRICAN  
AMERICAN STUDENT SUCCESS**

**WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a Black/African American citizen of Minneapolis, died when a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, with three other police officers standing by; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Floyd's death was the latest tragic killing of a Black/African American citizen through police brutality; and

**WHEREAS**, Black/African American citizens including Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Akai Gurley, Terence Crutcher, Tamir Rice, Mike Brown, Freddie Gray, Sean Bell, Sandra Bland, Oscar Grant, Stephon Clark, Jordan Edwards, Jordan Davis, Philando Castile, and thousands of others throughout the four centuries since Africans were first taken to North America have been unjustly killed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black/African American community in the Pasadena Area Community College District has a rich cultural history that predates the incorporation of Pasadena in 1886, and PCC alumni include Jackie Robinson, who started his athletic journey at PCC before he went on to integrate Major League Baseball and inspired the nation with his courage and determination; his brother and fellow Olympic athlete Mack Robinson; award-winning author Octavia Butler; Oscar-nominated director John Singleton; NBA champion Michael Cooper; and many, many more distinguished alumni of Black/African American descent; and

**WHEREAS**, Black/African American citizens in the Pasadena Area Community College District including Kendrec McDade, Leroy Barnes, Christopher Ballew, and Rodney King, and too many others, are added to the record of Black/African American citizens who have suffered violence or lost their lives at the hands of police officers; and

**WHEREAS**, this historical and present trauma is part of the lived experiences of our Black/African American students, faculty, staff, and neighbors, and has led to fear and distress among the Black/African American community at Pasadena City College; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pasadena Area Community College District condemns all hate crimes and discriminatory actions on the basis of race and ethnicity as well as ability, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and religion; and

**WHEREAS**, 62 percent of Black/African American high school students in California who go on to college are enrolled in a California community college, compared to 16 percent and five percent who are enrolled in a California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) institution, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the ratio of Black/African American students to tenured Black professors is 40 to 1 at PCC, but the ratio for white non-Hispanic students is 25 to 1; and

**WHEREAS**, at PCC, 31 percent of Black/African American students earn a degree, certificate, or transfer within six years; only five percent of Black/African American students transfer within two years; and only nine percent of Black/African American students transfer to a public university within six years; and

**WHEREAS**, Pasadena City College is committed to eliminate those barriers to equity and to act deliberately to create a safe and inclusive environment where individual and group differences are valued and leveraged for our growth and understanding as an educational community; and

**WHEREAS**, true, lasting change will require a fundamental re-examination and removal of policies, procedures, practices, and structures that produce inequitable outcomes for Black/African American students and students from minority backgrounds;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Board of Trustees of the Pasadena Area Community College District, hereby denounce violence against Black/African American citizens due to racial profiling and racist ideologies that promote trauma; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees affirms PACCD's commitment to the health, well-being, inclusion, and progress of Black/African Americans on campus and in the greater community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees supports college plans to create the position of Chief Diversity Officer as a way of devoting concerted attention to these intractable problems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees commends and supports the PCC administration for its commitment to close all equity gaps at PCC by 2027, and commits themselves to this goal as well; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees further commits to a thorough review of the college's policies and administrative procedures, including the Policy Manual of the PCC Police and College Safety Department, to

identify and remove instances of institutional structures that perpetuate systemic racism; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees proudly stands with the PCC Academic Senate, Classified Senate, Faculty Association, Management Association, Association of Black Employees, Association of Latino Employees, Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees, QUEST Center, CORE Program, editorial staff of *Inscape Magazine*, and Student Health Services Department in solidarity with Black/African American students, faculty, and staff at PCC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees calls on all members of our community to stand in allegiance with our Black/African American colleagues and friends; re-engage as a campus through trainings and dialogue about implicit bias and microaggressions, among other things; and take peaceful action to advance the cause of justice and equity at our college and in our society.

Passed and adopted this June 17, 2020.

Aye: \_\_\_\_\_  
No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

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James A. Osterling  
President, Board of Trustees  
Pasadena Area Community College District

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Erika Endrijonas, Ph.D.  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Pasadena Area Community College District, and  
Superintendent/President, Pasadena City College