

RESOLUTION NO. 43-19

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, IN
SUPPORT OF AB 392 THE CALIFORNIA ACT TO SAVE LIVES**

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council is in support of the state legislature introducing legislation to support and value human life, and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality; and

WHEREAS, at the December 18, 2018 City Council meeting, Councilmember Jovanka Beckles presented “A resolution honoring Kishana Harley and calling on the State Legislature to introduce legislation to value human life and to condemn racial injustice and police brutality,” for council approval, containing recommendations by Ms. Harley and the community that requested the State to introduce legislation that incorporated their recommendations such as limit the use of force. The City Council approved the resolution and sent a letter to State representatives; and

WHEREAS, police officers can sometimes make poor choices that result in implementing harsh enforcement policies, often in extremely stressful and dangerous situations; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council envisions a future where violent encounters between police and civilians are extremely rare; and

WHEREAS, an alarming number of people are killed by police every year, the majority of those victims were unarmed or were killed for behaviors due to issues that have included mental health that should not have resulted in death; and

WHEREAS, under California’s current law, police officers can use deadly force when necessary to arrest someone who has committed a felony and is fleeing from police; and

WHEREAS, according to figures from the California Department of Justice, California police killed 172 people in 2017, half of whom were unarmed, and several of our state’s police departments have among the highest rates of killings in the country; and

WHEREAS, current law fails to include best practices recommended by law enforcement organizations, including the U.S. Department of Justice under President Obama and most recently, by the California Department of Justice, as being effective in preserving life while also allowing police officers the latitude needed to ensure public safety; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2018 report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, when police use alternative tactics to de-escalate tensions including warnings, verbal persuasion, or other non-lethal methods, these result in fewer shootings while ensuring community safety by providing a clear definition for when officers are permitted to use deadly force; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2009 Harvard Kennedy School Report, police departments with more restrictive use of force policies not only engage in fewer shootings, but also experience lower rates of assault against officers and lower crime rates; and

WHEREAS, police shootings cause extraordinary harm to impacted communities, especially Black and Brown community members; of the 172 killed by California police in 2017, more than two-thirds were people of color, and of those who were completely unarmed, three quarters were people of color; and

WHEREAS, several communities and families of loved ones killed by police support AB 392, such as City of San Diego, California Families United 4 Justice, along with the ACLU of CA, Alliance for Black Men of Color, Anti Police-Terror Project, Black Lives Matter CA, CA Faculty Association, CURYJ, PICO CA, Silicon Valley DeBug, United Domestic Work Association Local 3930, Youth Justice LA, and STOP Coalition, and more; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill 392 (California Act to Save Lives) Assembly member Weber would bring California law in line with best policing practices by limiting and redefining the circumstances under which a homicide by a peace officer is deemed justifiable to include self-defense or defense of another, or to prevent the escape of a fleeing felon whose immediate apprehension is necessary to prevent death or serious injury.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Richmond hereby supports AB 392 and directs the City Manager or designee to convey a copy of the Resolution to Assembly member Wicks, Senator Skinner, member of the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held June 4, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Bates, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis, Vice Mayor Choi, and Mayor Butt.
NOES:	None.
ABSTENTIONS:	None.
ABSENT:	None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER
City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 43-19**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on June 4, 2019.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond