



“Resolution Regarding Police Accountability”

Proposed Motion: *Move to pass the Resolution Regarding Police Accountability*

Sponsor: *AS President, Annika Wolters*

Persons of Contact: *AS President, Annika Wolters*

Guest Speaker: *Malcolm Oliver and company from Bellingham Police*

Department

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2015

Attached Document

Attached is the Resolution Regarding Police Accountability

Background & Context

This document has arisen out of current events throughout the year. With the topic of police brutality and patterns of excessive force being seen police departments in Washington State and the greater United States, the Associated Students wants to be proactive in encouraging the improvement of our own community’s police departments.

Beginning with the killing of John Crawford in August of 2014, and most recently the killing of Antonio Zambrano-Montes in Pasco and the non-indictments of the officers who shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice, it is easy to think that these kinds of instances would never occur in Bellingham. It is not impossible. This resolution encourages the Bellingham and local police departments to put a plan in effect that would minimize the chances of similar instances in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

- *This resolution is subject to approval by the board of Directors, and did not go through committee before this meeting.*

Summary of Proposal

This proposal shall act as a memorandum of understanding between the Associated Students of Western Washington University and the local police departments. Upon signing this resolution, the local police departments are committing to a plan of transparent stages to improve the relations between members of the community, the student body and the police force. The goal is to have better communication and fewer barriers. This proposal will help fill our goals by catering to the relevant and current interests of our student body, and will create a more welcoming climate when interacting with law enforcement.

Fiscal Impacts

There are no fiscal impacts to this resolution.

Rationale

The long term effects may carry over to other departments in the state. When one department takes the lead to become more culturally aware, and examines the disparities amongst arrest rates in their own counties, then we can encourage a wider participation in such trainings on racial and gender profiling. The short term effect lets students know that their police is addressing the systems of oppression that face us all. This is not being talked about in Olympia, but it is being talked about in our police forces.