



Statement from the Fresno County Democratic Party June 8, 2020

The Fresno County Democratic Party (FCDP) is committed to improving the lives of all Fresno County residents. We fully support Black Lives Matter.

Nationally, this movement has highlighted the racial divide that exists across our nation. Demonstrations attended by thousands of individuals throughout Fresno County reflect the need for local leaders to take real action in how our local law enforcement agencies function and are funded.

The Fresno State chapter of the NAACP has laid out an agenda for corrective measures relative to the Fresno Police Department. The agenda is found below for your review.

1. **Mayor-elect Jerry Dyer must acknowledge the research-backed [disparities](#)** for what they are and cease explanations based on personal opinion or perspective of said issues. This feeds into negative stereotypes and stigmas, specifically those that refer to Black and Brown people.
2. **Community involvement in the hiring process of a new police chief.** There must be community members on the hiring committee, and they must receive a vote.
3. **Charges brought against Fresno Police Department Officers Christopher Martinez and R. Loza, who [brutalized](#) London Wallace, and Sgt. Ray Villalvazo who shot 16-year-old [Isiah Murrietta-Golding](#) in the back of his head.**
4. **Address and respond to complaints filed by community members regarding the Fresno Police Department's pattern and practice of shooting individuals.** The U.S. Attorney's Office and Fresno County District Attorney's Office has not charged or convicted any repeat shooters, such as Villalvazo.
5. **Eliminate qualified immunity for cops and establish police bond.** They should be treated as any other individual committing a crime.
6. **Explain the strategy for firing racist police officers.**
7. **Elected officials must inform the community on their process for deciding Fresno's budget** and what next year's financing will look like, including transparency specifically about west Fresno support.
8. **Mandate non-violence training for any officers responding in the Fresno community.**
9. **Establish a more [diverse police force](#) that will reflect our communities.** Cops should live in Fresno if they want to work in Fresno.
10. **Create stricter regulations for [industrial plants](#).** They should not be allowed to expose the black community to their toxins.

The FCDP supports the implementation of these measures and Black community leadership in Fresno. Indeed, we call for all governmental agencies throughout Fresno County to immediately address the pervasive, institutionalized inequalities that have for too long blighted our communities. We applaud the many in our community who have protested to correct these injustices.