

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Session 120

Date: April 1, 2021



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

*Submitted by Mustapha Samateh
Senate Vice Speaker*

BOARD BILL 5.11: R-27-8 A RESOLUTION ON BREAKING ALL TIES WITH SPD - BSU DEMAND 1

Sponsors: Shewit Abraha, Michael Saunders

Senate Vote: 53-2-7

Statement Of Intent:

The purpose of this legislation is to shed light onto one of the most pressing issues that BIPOC, disabled, and LGBTQ+ communities face. Police brutality. This legislation is focused on the protection of marginalized communities and should be viewed as such. Negligent responses from UW administration, Seattle police forces, and other external law enforcement agencies have pushed BSU and other entities on campus to further advocate for the safety of these communities, and opinion-based comments on the support of police should be reconsidered before being spoken aloud. This space should be used to provide proper guidance and support to help aid in the protection of marginalized communities that have frequently been the targets of police brutality. All Black Lives Matter.

WHEREAS, SPD has a documented history of being extremely aggressive and on probation for using excessive force and excessive frisking of BIPOC people; and

WHEREAS, The DOJ issued a federal consent decree on SPD for using excessive force and has been in place since 2012; and (a)

WHEREAS, Over 12,000 complaints were made towards SPD for the use of excess violence over the summer; the complaints included the pepper spraying of a young girl, officers placing their knees on necks of two arrested individuals, officers breaking the windows of a Target store; and (b)

WHEREAS, The UWPD maintains a close working relationship with the Seattle Police Department (SPD); and (c)

WHEREAS UWPD successfully completed training at the Washington state criminal justice training commission academy there is no use for SPD resources and therefore no necessity to collaborate on joint investigations and the two occasionally train together to prepare for incidents that may arise; and (d)

WHEREAS, In 2017, UW spent well over \$100,000 in overtime expenses for both UWPD and SPD in full gear to respond to a White supremacist speaker who had already incited violence against queer students *by name* on other campuses. Despite the militarized response and significant expenses for an armed response, there was still a shooting on Red Square; and (e)

WHEREAS, Seattle School District has already closed its schools to SPD “resource officers” and banned law enforcement agencies from using school property as a launch-pad for militarized violence; and (f)

WHEREAS, Seattle City Council has committed to defunding violent policing by 50%, making UW the most policed area in the greater Seattle region; and (h)

WHEREAS, The UWPD has a written memorandum of understanding with the SPD and King County sheriffs office setting forth roles and responsibilities relating to the prevention and response to sexual assault; and (c)

WHEREAS, the University of Washington provides sexual assault resources and information through its official website; and (i)

WHEREAS, SPD and UWPD have a written memorandum of understanding regarding UWPD’S patrol of the non-campus, privately-owned housing north of the main campus; and (c)

WHEREAS, UWPD has more access to Greek Row as far as proximity and information on UW students; and

WHEREAS, Greek Row is less than a mile away from University of Washington campus, UWPD can apply the appropriate response to students who are directly affected by campus activities and relations; and

WHEREAS, UWPD does not have additional written memorandum of understanding with SPD although the two departments do have written mutual aid agreements in place; and (c)

WHEREAS, UWPD does not have a written memorandum of understanding with Washington state patrol but the two have written mutual aid agreements in place; and (c)

WHEREAS, SPD and Washington State Patrol have secondary jurisdiction, behind UWPD, regarding on campus affairs, they are already considered secondary responders should UWPD need assistance regardless of a written mutual aid agreement; and

WHEREAS, SPD may contact UWPD regarding non-campus incidents involving UW students who may then be subject to citation or arrest by SPD as well as University disciplinary proceedings conducted by the office of community standards and student conduct or housing and food services; and (c)

WHEREAS, SPD has agreements with the University of Washington for SWAT and bicycle police services at UW football games, and traffic services for UW men's basketball games and UW Commencement; and (j)

WHEREAS, off-duty external officers are individually hired to serve at these public events with aid from agreements with external law enforcement allowing those officers to provide those services; and

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THAT, the University of Washington terminates all formal terms and agreements with external law enforcement agencies including their close working relationship, mutual aid agreements, memorandums; and

THAT, the University of Washington stops facilitating the detention of individuals arrested by SPD; and

THAT, UWPD expands its jurisdiction to circumference large enough to include Nordheim, Mercer, Stevens Court, Greek row, and University Way (The Ave); and

THAT, the UWPD conduct a report detailing its ability to be the primary responder to the detailed expanded jurisdiction and changes to adapt if necessary

THAT, UW Administration takes action to ensure the safety of student residing north of 45th without the involvement of external law enforcement; and

THAT, the University of Washington invests into making its sexual assault, hate crime, and violent crime reporting and response tools more accessible; and

THAT this piece of legislation is in accordance with the goal of moving to a campus that can function without the necessity of police.

THAT an open letter, written by the sponsors of this bill, be sent to all current students at the University of Washington by the president of the ASUW regarding their intentions of this bill.

THAT, this document is forwarded to the following parties;

President of University of Washington Ana Marie Cauce, Vice President of OMAD Rickey Hall, Vice President of Student Life Denzel Suite, Provost Mark Richards, Director of Campus Partnership Waleed Khan, President of ASUW Camille Hattwig, UW Black Student Union, UW Board of Regents, Director of University Affairs Clara Coyote, Director of Diversity Efforts Rachel Smithers, ASUW Senate Speaker Lukas Illa, ASUW Senate Vice Speaker Mustapha Samateh, SAO Advisor Rene Singleton, ASUW Board of Directors, Interim UWPD Chief of Police, Randy West.

End

References

- (a) <https://www.king5.com/article/news/what-the-federal-consent-decree-means-for-seattle-police-department/281-1c410cb9-206c-4ff3-b6b9-e085ffb88648>
- (b) http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OPA/PressReleases/06-01-20_OPA-Press-Release-Following-Demonstrations.pdf
- (c) <http://depts.washington.edu/uwpdweb/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2017-Annual-Security-and-Fire-Safety-Report.pdf>
- (d) <http://police.uw.edu/aboutus/divisions/>
- (e) <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/milo-yiannopoulos-at-uw-a-speech-a-shooting-and-75000-in-police-overtime/>
- (f) <https://www.king5.com/article/news/education/plan-to-reevaluate-relationship-with-seattle-police-being-considered-by-school-board/281-0b5f5fe1-e255-422d-a6eb-7b2294774992>
- (g) https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/School%20Board/19-20%20agendas/June%2024/A01_20200624_Resolution%201920-38%20Affirming%20SPS%20Committment%20to%20Black%20students_Updated20200624.pdf
- (h) <https://decriminalizeseattle.com>
- (i) <https://www.washington.edu/sexualassault/>

- (j) <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/CityAuditor/auditreports/SpecialEvents/FinalReport121317.pdf>