

Resolution to End the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) Ineffective, Unjustifiable, Racist, Massive "Stop and Frisk" Policies

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress

Whereas, the police have made over 3 million "stops" of New Yorkers between 2004 and 2011, the overwhelming majority of whom were not engaged in criminal activities, according to the New York Civil Liberties Union; and

Whereas, the number of stops has climbed from an estimated 97,000 in 2002 (Lapiswala, Raj, "The Target of New York City Police Department's Stop and Frisk Program: Crime or Race," NYLS 2011) to over 500,000 in the first nine months of 2011 (New York Civil Liberties Union); and

Whereas, 82% of the people stopped in 2006 were people of color, and more than 50% were black, twice their representation in the NYC population (New York Civil Liberties Union); and

Whereas, the police are twice as likely to use force, (handcuffing, restraining, frisking, and searching without consent) when stopping a person of color as when stopping a white person (Center for Constitutional Rights); and

Whereas, ten years of raw data from the NYPD show only a minimal yield of either weapons or contraband from stop and frisk policies, thus undermining police claims of the policy as effective crime prevention (Center for Constitutional Rights); and

Whereas, only 10% of such stops led to arrests or summonses, including petty infractions such as riding a bike on the sidewalk or having an open container on a subway (New York Civil Liberties Union); and

Whereas, the NYCLU, NYT, and the NYC Bar Association have sued the NYPD under the freedom of information law to disclose the electronic database detailing police stops of the hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, most of whom are black and Latino; and

Whereas, CUNY and public school students of color, drawn from poor and working class communities have direct and daily experience of being targeted by the NYPD, for example, a Borough of Manhattan Community College student, Nicholas K. Peart, in a 12/17/11 New York Times opinion editorial, describes his multiple experiences of being stopped, searched, handcuffed and released and explains why he did not challenge the cops during a stop and frisk in fear of arrest or worse; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT develop and disseminate educational materials for students and parents from middle school through college,

including for students of criminal justice, that identify the risks to democracy and civil rights of such police practices, and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT oppose the NYPD's massive, racist, ineffective stop and frisk practices that bluntly target communities of color, and be it further

RESOLVED, that NYSUT support the Center for Constitutional Rights' demand for accountability that includes independent oversight and reform of the NYPD's use of stop and frisk practices.