

## Resolution for Democratic Party Condemning Extremist Violence, including in Charlottesville, Virginia

**WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party states, in its 2016 Platform, in the section entitled "IV. Civil and Human Rights":

"The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are foundations of freedom, justice and peace. Our democracy rests on the rights and responsibilities set forth in the United States Constitution, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the Washington State Constitution. We recognize that our nation and Party have long struggled to acknowledge and address the systemic and structural racism woven throughout its political, economic, and cultural history, and the fabric of our nation, and that persists in many forms to this day. Democrats remain at the forefront of the struggle to extend civil, political, economic, religious, and all legal and inherent rights to all persons...";

**WHEREAS** the "Unite the Right Rally" was a protest in Charlottesville, Virginia, on August 11 and 12, 2017, to oppose the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee in Emancipation Park;

**WHEREAS** protesters, including white supremacists, white nationalists, neo-Confederates, neo-Nazis, and militias, participated in the gathering, some of whom marched and carried semi-automatic rifles, swastikas, Confederate battle flags, anti-Semitic banners, and engaged in physical violence with counter-protesters, leaving 14 injured;

**WHEREAS** on the morning of August 12, Virginia's Democratic governor Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency stating that public safety could not be safeguarded without additional powers. Within an hour, the Virginia State Police declared the assembly to be unlawful;

**WHEREAS** following the gubernatorial declaration, a man linked to white-supremacist groups rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters near the rally site, killing one person and injuring 19; and

**WHEREAS** Attorney General Jeff Sessions described the attack as domestic terrorism, and authorities began a civil rights investigation to determine if the suspect in the vehicular homicide will be tried in court under hate crime statutes;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats Central Committee condemn this violence, and such other acts of violence that are

43 gratuitous and motivated by hateful and extremist ideologies, and urge and support the  
44 course of justice to be carried out in holding accountable and punishing those  
45 perpetrators who broke the law in the course of this demonstration; and  
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47 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Proponent of this Resolution, or  
48 the Washington State Democrats Central Committee, or their designee, shall  
49 communicate approval of this Resolution, and request advancement of this Resolution,  
50 upon approval, to the Democratic National Committee, in such timely and propitious  
51 manner for their next pending meetings taking place shortly, for consideration for  
52 approval, as allowed under the bylaws of the Democratic Party.  
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55 Submitted by the 29<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats on 8/21/2017.

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57 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended  
58 that it be passed.

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60 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on  
61 9/10/17.