

1 **The Search for Justice in Cases Where Civilians are Killed by Police Officers**
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3 Whereas, people across the U.S. are dismayed and angry that the policemen who
4 killed Eric Garner and Michael Brown were not indicted by their respective grand juries;
5 and
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7 Whereas, tens of thousands of people, including members of the UFT and PSC,
8 demonstrated against what they regarded as travesties of justice; and
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10 Whereas, the *New York Daily News* reported on Dec. 8, 2014 that its investigation
11 showed that of the 179 cases during the past 15 years in which on-duty New York City
12 police officers killed civilians, only three of the officers were indicted, and only one was
13 convicted; and that, of the victims whose race was known, 86% were black or Hispanic;
14 and that 27% of the victims were unarmed;¹ and
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16 Whereas, local District Attorneys must maintain a close relationship with the
17 police officers in their jurisdictions, they may be reluctant to aggressively pursue grand
18 jury indictments and/or convictions; and
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20 Whereas, one of NYSUT's core social justice values is in promoting a criminal
21 justice system that is fair and not racially discriminatory; and
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23 Whereas, the labor movement is stronger and more united when it opposes all
24 manifestations of racism; and
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26 Whereas, progressive and anti-racist organizations have called for a variety of
27 judicial reforms to replace the current system of prosecution of police-involved deaths,
28 with many voices, including *The New York Times*, calling for the appointment of a
29 special prosecutor to ensure a fair, non-discriminatory process of investigation; therefore
30 be it
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32 **RESOLVED, that NYSUT and its affiliated locals actively support a change**
33 **in New York State law or, if appropriate, in federal law, that would create an**
34 **effective judicial process that is transparent and accountable to the public and that**
35 **would ensure a fair, non-discriminatory process of investigation and trial in all**
36 **cases of police-involved deaths.**

¹ [S. Ryley, N. Hicks, T. Tracy, J. Marzulli, D. Gregorian. http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/179-nypd-involved-deaths-3-indicted-exclusive-article-1.2037357](http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/179-nypd-involved-deaths-3-indicted-exclusive-article-1.2037357), (December 8, 2014).