
CSFN NEWS

WHY BLACK LIVES MATTER by Glenn Rogers



Photo by [spotlightnews.com](https://www.spotlightnews.com)

Today, the issue of *Black Lives Matter* is on everyone's lips.. Unfortunately many Americans do not acknowledge institutional racism. The purpose of this article is to show the history of racism, the numerous steps that led to the problem and two alternative policing solutions.

So the behavior of the police in the South was from the beginning violent and brutal to Black Americans.

THE FIRST POLICE FORCE

The first police force was established in the Carolina colonies in 1704. This police force was formed to control slaves. The “slave patrols had three primary functions: (1) to chase down, apprehend, and return to their owners, runaway slaves; (2) to provide a form of organized terror to deter slave revolts; and, (3) to maintain a form of discipline for slave-workers who were subject to summary justice, outside of the law, if they violated any plantation rules.”¹ Police forces occurred in the Northern states much later, around in the year 1830.

So the behavior of the police in the South was from the beginning violent and brutal to Blacks. When the Civil War ended, the police modified their behavior somewhat during Reconstruction. However, instead, of the police primarily intimidating Blacks, this became more the responsibility of groups like the Klu Klux Klan. The Klu Klux Klan replaced the police force with terror and summary justice to any Black man that was felt to be out of line.



There were numerous opportunities to make profit for those in private prisons. To name a few, they are charging for phone service, providing inferior health care, providing bail bonds for inmates and purchasing federal or state prisons, then providing inferior care for inmates at a lower cost are just a few examples.

For this death and loss of property, there was never any compensation.

TULSA RACE RIOT

The best example of institutional racism occurred in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921. In an elevator a Black boy allegedly touched a white girl inappropriately. The boy was arrested and taken to jail. A crowd of white men gathered around the police station demanding a lynching. The Black community in Tulsa, believing the police needed help, marched to the police station, some of the men with guns. A confrontation

occurred and a gun was shot. The violence that occurred next was unprecedented in American history. There were 150-300 people killed at this time.



Tulsa Riot Aftermath

Private planes flew over the neighborhood called “*Black Wall Street*” and bombed the residences and stores totaling 35 square blocks of property damage. The violence continued until the next day when the Oklahoma National Guard intervened. 10,000 people were left homeless and \$32.25 million in property damaged occurred in currency equivalent to today. For this death and loss of property, there was never any compensation. 2

POLICE VIOLENCE

It was established that Derek Chauvin, the murderer of George Floyd, had 18 complaints against his record. That being said, officer Chauvin lost only one day of work despite this behavior. 3 This is because police unions have shielded officers from repercussions for their bad conduct. Moreover, four police unions have contributed \$1.8 million to the Democratic Party since 2017. Now, police unions, along with tobacco companies, gun manufacturers, for profit prisons and oil companies are being denied the opportunity to donate to the Democratic Party. Hopefully, without police unions being protected by politicians, we can have better behavior from our police officers. 4

Those that believe the police have a “few bad apples” should consider the following. Oscar Grant was shot at the Fruitvale BART Station in Oakland. The officer that killed him seemed to have mistakenly used his gun instead of a taser. Today, guns

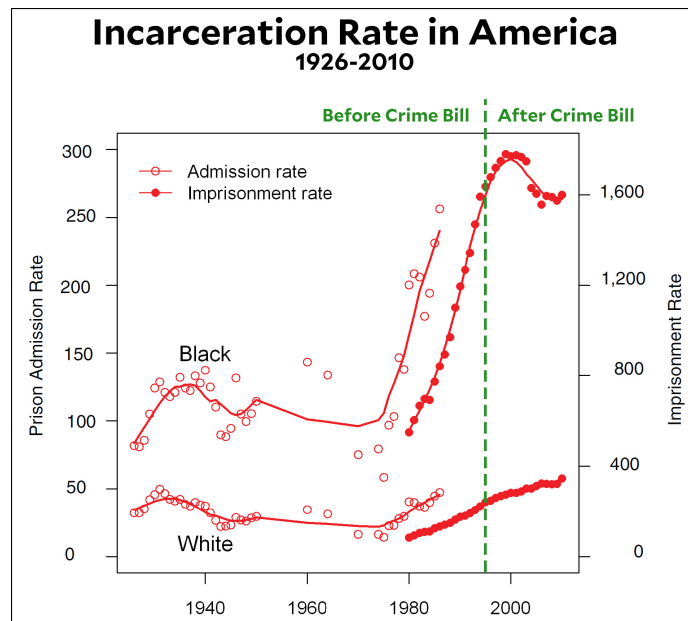
and tasers are in very different locations on an officer's leg to avoid this confusion again. Safe to say, this police officer lacked sufficient training. Ahmaud Avery was shot by a retired police officer, accompanied by his son, because he was jogging. The retired officer that shot Avery assumed that a Black man running, must be running from a crime scene. Most upsetting, is the shooting of Tamir Rice, a 12 year old boy, shot and killed for waiving a toy pistol. The police shot Tamir after being on the scene for only 2 seconds without asking any questions of the boy. The list goes on and on of police killing Black people unnecessarily. Anyone still believing racism is not systemic in America needs to rethink their belief system. With countless cell phone recordings, of numerous acts of police misconduct, it has become clear, America has a problem with police violence against people of color. Other Black people shot or killed by the police recently include the following: Breonna Taylor, Alalania Jefferson, Aurura Rosser, Stephon Clark, Botham Jean, Philandro Castille, Alton Sterling, Michelle Cusseaux, Freddie Gray, Janisha Fonville, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Gabriella, Nevarez, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown and Tanisha Anderson. These is a short list of the Black people killed recently by the police in America. There are many, many others. 5 After reviewing this list of murdered Black Americans, we need to ask ourselves, what is it that entitles white police offices to so freely kill Black Americans?

THE 1994 CRIME BILL

Besides our police requiring improvement, legislation has aided the police in their criminalization of people of color in America. Fundamental to this was the Crime Bill which included the "three strikes your out" provision which gave a lifetime sentence for repeat violent offenders. Often the last crime committed by an individual was inconsequential that lead to a lifetime of imprisonment. This provision caused the prison population in the United States to increase 500% to 2.2 million inmates, most of these inmates were people of color. 6 This preponderance of Blacks and latinos being arrested and put to jail is also an indication that Black lives don't matter. One way the police could remove an unwanted member of a neighborhood would be to repeatedly arrest them. Eventually, with this manner of law enforcement, the offending individual would be put in prison for life. Although the police did not create the Crime Bill, that provided this miscarriage of justice, the police could use the Crime Bill to great advantage in removing those deemed a problem in their district.

PRISONS FOR PROFIT

Now that the prison population is booming, now we need to house the excess inmates. It is said that the for profit prison business was a \$70 billion industry. There were numerous opportunities to make profit for those in prison. To name a few, they are charging for phone service, providing inferior health care, providing bail bonds for inmates and purchasing federal or state prisons, then providing inferior care for inmates at a lower cost are just a few examples. Also, the for profit prisons



industry would lobby politicians to create more laws to increase their profits by criminalizing more activities and by increasing length of sentencing. Private prisons have lobbied successfully to have undocumented immigrants remain in prison in this country at the tax payers expense. Lastly, first time offenses for drug abuse, like marijuana, have exceptionally long sentences of 1-5 years in America. Our justice system provides, stiffer sentences for people of color than for white offenders. This unjust and unfair private system again shows how Black Lives don't Matter to those in the judicial system. On June 22, 2020, by Executive order, due to the embarrassing bad publicity of numerous immigrants in over crowded cells, the COVID-19 pandemic and the spike in the jobless rate, immigrants have been held at the Mexican border for many months unable to enter the USA for their judicial hearing until called upon. This Executive order will be revisited on December 31, 2020 to see if it should remain in place. After all, there are many lobbyists and their constituents, interested in continuing to make money off of the private prison system.

NEW MODELS OF POLICING

In Camden, New Jersey in 2013, all the city police officers were fired and a majority of the police officers were rehired after retaking a psychological exam and completing a 50 page questionnaire. This approach did not "defund the police" but rather added more police on the street on foot or on bicycle. Now, the goal of the police is to become acquainted with the public. Also, police performance is not measured by the number of arrests or tickets produced but by other outcomes. In changing the image of the police force from "warrior" to "guardian" homicide declined from 67 in 2012 to 25 in 2019. The Camden police realized they needed the consent of the public to be able fight crime in the community, therefore, gaining the consent of the public was necessary. To do this, the public was asked their

opinion on how crime would be fought in their city. By having a dialog, both police and the public, would be educated on how to best fight crime in their city. 7

EXPANDING THE POLICE FORCE

A second method to modify the police force occurred in Eugene, Oregon with a population 170,000. The program is named *Cahoots*. This program does not eliminate the police force but augments it. This approach by *Cahoots* is more like the “defund the police” movement where police officers are replaced by a team of medical and/or counseling staff. For example, when a call comes in from 911 or the non-emergency police number, if the call does not have a strong behavioral health component or if the call does not seem to require law enforcement, then the call will be routed to the *Cahoots* team. The *Cahoots* team is “comprised of a medic and a crisis worker - that can go out and respond to the call, assess the situation, assist the individual if possible, and then help get that individual to a higher level of care or necessary service if that's what's really needed.” 8 The *Cahoots* staff is well trained in deescalation techniques, with no gun and dressed in regular clothing without a uniform, this staff is more likely to put those they serve at ease immediately.

In 2016, a study estimated that 20%-60% of fatalities caused by the police were with an individual with mental illness. Recently, out of 24,000 calls to *Cahoots*, only 150 required police backup. *Cahoots* answered approximately 17% of the city of Eugene’s over all call volume, saving the city of Eugene \$8.5 million annually. 9 So this program is both safe and cost effective.

FOOT NOTES:

1. <https://plsonline.eku.edu/insidelook/history-policing-united-states-part-1>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa_race_massacre
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Chauvin
4. https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Top-California-Democrats-demand-state-party-stop-15389899.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headlines&utm_campaign=sfc_morningfix&sid=53ba5f9f9dbc_d4ec6e000221
5. <https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2020/know-their-names/index.html>
6. <https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=prison+population+growth&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
7. <https://www.npr.org/sections/live-updates-protests-for-racial-justice/2020/06/08/872416644/former-chief-of-reformed-camden-n-j-force-police-need-consent-of-the-people>
8. <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/10/874339977/cahoots-how-social-workers-and-police-share-responsibilities-in-eugene-oregon>
9. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/05/us/cahoots-replace-police-mental-health-trnd/index.html>

Glenn Rogers, RLA, Landscape Architect, License 3223,
Vice President of CSFN and Newsletter Editor



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

VOTE THE WHOLE BALLOT FROM THE TOP ON DOWN TO THE BOTTOM!

“The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent that you have in a democratic society.” John Lewis

We have many choices to make when we vote on the first Tuesday in November but we must remember to mark our document for all the offices and items in play. We have a PRESIDENT to elect but also a Congresswoman who happens to be SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, an important legislative leader. (We don't elect a Senators or State

Supreme Court Justices this time).

That's it, right? No:, we have State offices and items to attend to. We don't have state cabinet officers to elect this year, but we have state ASSEMBLY and SENATE candidates up for election. These are important because legislation from Sacramento may have a great impact on us, often in the local housing measures passed. And this year's ballot also has numerous State wide PROPOSITIONS (numbered from 14-25), several of which are being vetted by our Government and Elections Committee.

Okay, Federal and State: so I guess we're done! What? Don't we have local officials and concerns that we care about? We have more than half of the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS to elect. How do we find the choices we have in each of our Districts in play (all of the odd ones)? Go to the League of Women Voters for non-partisan information, view the candidate forums that are being set up by Neighborhood Associations such as OMI-NIA, GWPNA, and SHARP. And with the simple majority of the BOS in play, the politics of progressive vs. moderate may change completely in the interplay with the mayor's office and the City departments.

So that's all? No, you also have a big say in legislation as well through the local BALLOT MEASURES. Bonds, charter amendments, taxes and ordinances are due to be voted on this year. City department such as the PUBLIC WORKS, POLICE and SHERIFF may be altered. Taxation may change on companies whose CEO's earn EXCESSIVE SALARIES and REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS of multi-million dollars, and also BUSINESS SALES ASSESSMENTS . Citizenship requirements for CITY PANELS may be removed, VOTING may be granted for 16-17 year old students, and AFFORDABLE HOUSING may be increased. Our whole General Assembly meeting on August 11 will be devoted to discussion of these issues selected by the Government and Elections Committee.

Then, and only then, are we finished for now. But remember, to keep your eyes on the prize: don't forget the down ballot races! That is what one of our two major parties did and now the other one controls numerous State governments. And what is it doing in the States they dominate? Voter suppression, since the Supreme Court gutted the voting rights act in 2015. The voting rights act was passed in 1965 after Bloody Sunday in Selma, when John Lewis's skull was fractured by the baton of a state trooper. Shortly before he died last week, he wrote prophetically “Voting and participation in the democratic process are key...You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it“.

Charles Head, President CSFN



**CSFN AGENDA FOR SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON ZOOM AUGUST 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

- I. **Sign in** and take preferential poll.
- II. **Call to order:** Short announcements.
- III. **Program:** Ballot Measures for the Nov. 3, 2020 Election.
The Government and Election Committee will present Bond, Charter Amendments, and Initiative Ordinances. For discussion and voting to approve, oppose, or take No stand on each, and whether or not to write Arguments . Note: the order of those to be discussed, and the speakers on each.
Will be sent out closer to the time of the General Assembly.
- IV. **Officers' Reports** (Time Permitting)
- V. **Committee Reports** (Time Permitting)
- VI. **Approval of Draft Minutes** for July 21 Meeting
- VII. **Unfinished Business** (Time Permitting)
- VIII. **New Business** (Also " ")
- IX. **Adjournment**

Charles Head, President CSFN



CSFN MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2020 CSFN ASSEMBLY MEETING ON ZOOM

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Head called meeting to order at 6:35pm.
- II. **ENTRY POLL:** Quorum confirmed – 23 participants:
 - A. 18 member organizations present (18 delegates + 3 alternates)
 - B. 2 guests
- III. **INTRODUCTIONS:**
 - A. Carolyn Kenady gave a Rescue SF update.
- IV. **PROGRAM:** Larry Bush, newest appointee to S.F. Ethics Commission, spoke. Mentioned that all departments have been asked to take a 10% budget cut by the mayor, which can hamper new ethics reporting recommendations.
- V. **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**
 - A. **PRESIDENT:** Working with SHARP to have D7 candidate meeting in the fall. Considering other candidate forums as well. Surprised that BOS turned down charter amendment for public advocate. Monitoring BOS committee meetings. Eileen Boken is stepping down from LUC chair but will be CSFN federal and state liaison.
 - B. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Comments on COVID-19 updates. Finished article on BLM.
 - C. **RECORDING SECRETARY:** Draft Minutes in July newsletter.
 - D. **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** No report.
 - E. **TREASURER:** Financial report shared on-screen later in the meeting. President Head expressed his condolences to Greg Scott over his recent family loss. Discussion of end of year event as final fundraiser.
- VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. **EX COMM:** Minutes in newsletter. Nothing to report.
 - B. **BYLAWS:** Nothing new to report. Still updating bylaws document.
 - C. **LU&TC:** Many housing bills in the legislature that reduce affordable housing requirements, encourage upzoning, and override local control. City Planning's analysis of upcoming bills did not address what the combined effects of the bills could be.
 - D. **G&E:** Reviewed four measures at last meeting:
 - i. Prop. 15: removes Prop. 13 limits for commercial properties.
 - ii. Prop 19: inheritance change to market tax rate
 - iii. Board has until July 31st to merge amendments and make changes to proposed downtown amendments, so committee can't review yet.
 - iv. Measure to have the city purchase 10,000 homes - no details or cost analysis available yet.
 - v. A lot of tax measures being reviewed.
- VII. **APPROVAL OF MAY G.A. MINUTES:** Passed with the following corrections:
 - A. "Safe SF" should be "Rescue SF"
 - B. Bylaws report sentence is incomplete.
- VIII. **ADJOURN** **Cindy Beckman, Recording Secretary**



CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTE
Wednesday, July 29, 2020 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM

Charles Head, Glenn Rogers, Greg Scott, Cindy Beckman,
 Mary Harris, Richard Frisbie, Mari Eliza and Claire Zvanski.

- 5:32 pm I **Call to Order** / Ascertain Quorum/Met, Cindy Beckman to provide ZOOM invitation.
- 5:35 pm II **Officers Reports**
 - A. President: extensive report on Supervisor’s meetings and improvement of web hosting technology by Planning Dept..
 - B. Vice President: discussed Supervisors approval of Public bank.
 - C. Recording Secretary see previous report.
 - D. Treasurer: We are in the “black”.
- 5:48pm III **Committee Reports**
 - A. Bylaws no report.
 - B. Land Use and Transportation see report following.
 - C. Government and Elections, George provided Extensive report. See NL for details.
 - D. Open Space discussed Climate Emergency. See September Newsletter about SF Bay Plan 2050.
- 5:58 pm IV **New Business**
 - A. Next NL article by Glenn Rogers on SF Bay Plan 2050
 - B. Committee signups to be provided at GA and in NL.
- 6:08 pm V **Unfinished Business**
 - A Logo improvement repercussions.
 - B. Details of webinar for candidates to be on website
 - C. The Conversation Continues...
 - 1. We ask delegates to ask their members to join us on ZOOM.
- 6:29 pm VI **Adjourn**

Glenn Rogers, Vice President CSFN



CSFN Land Use and Transportation Committee

The committee did not meet in July but worked on having letters sent to Sacramento opposing numerous Planning bills that were on a list of undesirables. Several members worked with a Marina neighbor about a DR problem. New Telegraph Hill Dweller delegate, All Fortes, expressed interest in joining the group. Ex-chair Eileen Boken worked her new position as CSFN State and Federal Legislative Liaison and attended Assembly hearings and spoke before Senate hearings. She attended the July ABAG and MTC meetings: she urges CSFN members to take up the SF Bay Plan 2050 issue coming from the latter.

Charles Head, President CSFN

CSFN Government and Election Committee

Ballot measures of the City and County of San Francisco.

<https://sfelections.sfgov.org/measures>

George Wooding, Chair of G & E Committee



P.O. Box 320098 San Francisco, CA 94132 415 262 0440

Member Renewal

Name of Organization _____

Mailing Address _____ SF 941 _____ Contact E-mail _____

Current Officers

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

CSFN Delegate

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

If your organization has alternate CSFN delegates:

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email Address	Phone

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST - Each member is entitled to receive two copies of CSFN's monthly newsletter Neighborhood Views as part of their membership fee. The first copy goes to the delegate and the second to a person designated by the organization. A member of an organization's Board of Directors may subscribe to the CSFN newsletter at a rate of \$10 per year. Other persons may subscribe at \$15 per year. If you prefer to view the newsletter online or download it from the website www.csfn.net/newsletter check the box below and leave the following lines blank. Additional paid copies: use the back of this page. Include address and zip codes.

Email us the newsletter to following email address(es): _____

Do **not** send us a hard copy.

Send a hard copy to:

Name	Office	Address (with ZIP)	Phone

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CSFN Annual Membership dues are \$45. Organizations wishing to include an additional donation to CSFN are encouraged to do so. Please add \$10 for each additional newsletter subscription for your organization's board members and \$15 for other members. Make check payable to CSFN and mail to CSFN POBox 320098 SF CA 94132.

Annual Membership Dues: \$45.	_____
Newsletter Subscriptions: @ \$10.	_____
Newsletter Subscriptions: @ \$15.	_____
Additional Donation	_____
Total to CSFN	_____

Thank You!

CSFN Membership Certification

CSFN Bylaws (Article II, Section A-G) require each voting member organization to certify that it has a membership of 35 or more in order to maintain voting privileges. Organizations not having the required membership are encouraged to join or retain membership as associate members without voting privileges.

Member Organization (35 or more members) _____

Associate (non-voting) Member Organization _____

Certifying Signature _____

Address if not listed above _____

CSFN Annual Membership Fee is Due in January. If not received by March 1, voting rights will be withdrawn.