

Proposer of Resolution: The Rev. Winnie Varghese

Parish or Organization: St. Mark's in the Bowery

Title of Resolution: Policing and Public Safety

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Text of Resolution:

Resolved [20], that this 238th Convention of the Diocese of New York calls *upon* Episcopalians to be “repairers of the breach” and “makers of streets safe to walk in” by

- *engaging in dialogue and cooperation* with their local police about policing strategies that value all lives,
- *demonstrating* sensitivity to the biases and prejudgments that make some particularly vulnerable to violence,
- *respecting* the concerns of the police for their personal safety, and
- *working against* the *disproportionate* militarization of police forces.

Explanation of the Resolution:

The wide diversity of contexts in the Episcopal Diocese of New York is one of our greatest gifts. We are rural, suburban and urban; public safety officer, suspect, student, parent, friend, and crime victim. There is a profound breakdown in our nation’s system of public safety that at times leads to the death or targeting of unarmed people, our brothers and sisters. Our public safety officers fear for their own safety on the streets. Some of our police forces are being equipped with heavy military equipment that seems to escalate conflict in situation where their work is to protect. We believe Episcopalians can be agents of change in this seeming intractable situation by forming relationships with their local police and facilitating conversations in their communities about safety for all.