WHEREAS, campus police across the nation and in our local community are complicit in institutional racism through discriminatory practices that have caused direct harm to students and community members, as shown in Appendix 1 and GPSS 2021-2022D1; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech administrators have acknowledged that police murders are “race-driven,” have affirmed the Black Lives Matter movement, and called for action, as shown in Appendix 2; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement has called for defunding the police for seven years; furthermore, policing experts have called for abolition of or defunding of campus police departments, as shown in Appendix 3 and Resolution GPSS 2021-2022D1; and

WHEREAS, if the university and community affirms Black Lives Matter then it stands to reason they ought to support the single, solitary demand made by the movement; and

WHEREAS, section 23.1-809 of the Virginia State Code says that boards may establish a campus police force, but does not require a campus police force or establish the extent to which police presence is required; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a new task force will be created by Spring 2022 dedicated to defunding campus police and reallocating those funds towards valuable social services and overpoliced communities. This task force will issue ongoing recommendations to the university (made publicly available and widely publicized) as it proceeds and will conclude
by 2026-2027 to issue a final report with a pathway to fully abolish the campus police. The stakeholder portion (GPSS 2021-2022A) will consist of Virginia Tech students and graduate students from overpoliced populations, activists from Abolition at VT, BLM activists, and critical scholars of policing; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that failure to convene this task force within six months of the passing of the resolution by university council will result in the immediate dissolution of the campus police with their financial resources distributed to the Cultural and Community Centers and Cook counseling services and their equipment disposed of or sold at auction.

**Appendix 1: Radford University Campus Police’s Role in Death of Student Aris Lobo-Perez**

In 2019, Radford University campus police arrested freshman Aris Lobo-Perez. At the time of his arrest, he was heavily intoxicated and clearly needed medical assistance. But rather than take him to the hospital, campus police took him to the New River Valley Regional Jail where he died in a cell.


This is one example of how campus policing has impacted the New River Valley community.

**Appendix 2: Virginia Tech Statement on Police Violence**

In this statement from 2020, President Tim Sands and Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity Menah Pratt-Clarke refer to the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd as "race-driven." Further, they write "So what do we do? What actions can we take? While there is a place for protests, we must do more than protest. **We have an opportunity as individuals and in our own communities to construct a microcosm of the society in which we wish to live.**" [Emphasis added]

[https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2020/05/president-inclusivevt-statement-may31.html](https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2020/05/president-inclusivevt-statement-may31.html) and see, also, GPSS Resolution 2021-2022N2 for more statements in support.

This microcosm is exemplified by resources like the 8toAbolition platform that creates a pathway for defunding the police in line with BLM’s demands: [https://www.8toabolition.com/](https://www.8toabolition.com/)

Furthermore, in response to demands to defund the police some administrators and community members have feigned confusion over what this actually entails. We recommend the following articles and texts for (brief) clarity on why defunding the police is a historically grounded pathway for abolishing the police:
Appendix 3: Evidence for Campus Police Abolition Specifically

In this 2021 article, Dr. Davarian L. Baldwin provides evidence for why we should abolish campus police. Dr. Baldwin explains that most campus police officers carry guns and have off-campus jurisdiction, and he points to examples of officers killing and injuring students. In response to opposition to abolition in the name of student safety, Dr. Baldwin explains that despite heavy campus police presence, students are still sexually assaulted.

This work is part of a long line of scholars critical of policing on campuses that you can also see in the Appendices of GPSS 2021-2022D1 and the above resources. Joy James, Dean Spade, Alex Vitale, Rinaldo Walcott, Sarah Schulman, Liat Ben-Moshe, Simone Browne, Jordan T. Camp, Christina Heatherton, and many others are just a few internationally recognized experts on policing who have called for this as well.