WHEREAS, the California Teachers Association exists to ensure the human dignity and civil rights of all children and youth are protected; and

WHEREAS, the California Teachers Association exists to secure a more just, equitable, and democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the recent deaths of Eric Garner, Michael Brown and others compel questioning of whether or not equal justice under the law is happening for young men of color and poor men of color; and

WHEREAS, these deaths are indicative of a growing social-economic division threatening the current and future well-being of our students of color and our communities; and

WHEREAS, there exists a need to address the shortage of police departments engaged in constructive dialogue and good faith efforts to improve relations between law enforcement and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, incidents of racial profiling continue; and

WHEREAS, demonstrations are taking place throughout the nation in protest of unjust deaths of unarmed African Americans; and

WHEREAS, the California Teacher Association believes the lives of our black students matter and that all black lives matter; and

WHEREAS, the California Teachers Association believes there exists a growing divide between the “haves and have nots” in the American society that undermines the actualizing of a just and equitable treatment of black lives in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the California Teachers Association believes there exists a growing divide between “haves and have nots” in the American society that undermines the actualizing participation of black lives in a robust economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Teachers Association encourages educators to examine concepts of equal justice under the law, racial justice and “institutional racism” in their classroom lessons; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Teachers Association supports Black Lives Matter forums, community meetings and peaceful demonstrations; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the California Teachers Association reach out to state law enforcement associations to promote dialogue between educators and police officers in support of our young people in school and in the community; and

BE IT RESOLVED that, the California Teachers Association join with other labor and community groups to call for the creation of a national model for community policing and well-funded, thoughtful programs that divert marginalized young people into academic and career programs, and an end to institutionalized racism in the criminal justice system.

Voted unanimously by the CTA Board of Directors on April 22, 2015