

1 WHEREAS, the deaths of black men and women at the hands of white police officers
2 in recent years have raised a number of questions about the patterns of arrest related deaths,
3 as well as the treatment of black people within the criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, despite the overwhelming fear that exists when an officer interacts with
5 a black person, studies from The Society Pages show that black people are more likely to be
6 unarmed, yet black people are three times more likely to be killed by police officers; and

7 WHEREAS, the death of George Floyd, a forty-six year old man who died while a
8 police officer knelt on his neck for eight minutes and forty-six seconds and three other
9 officers assisted in holding Mr. Floyd down and observed, has sparked diverse worldwide
10 protests and demonstrations as a result of flames of injustice burning in our country for
11 centuries; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Floyd joins the many other names that have been killed by law
13 enforcement or shot to death by citizens while unarmed including, Trayvon Martin, Philando
14 Castile, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Jordan Edwards, Alton Sterling, Laquan
15 McDonald, Stephon Clark, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud
16 Arbery, and countless others; and

17 WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter organization is a global decentralized network
18 with more than forty chapters across the world and was founded in 2013 by Patrisse Khan-
19 Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's
20 murderer, George Zimmerman; and

21 WHEREAS, the phrase "Black Lives Matter" does not mean that all lives do not
22 matter, but that black lives, which are seen as without value within white supremacy, are
23 particularly important for liberation, specifically in a time where peaceful, law abiding
24 citizens are murdered in their homes at the hands of poorly trained officers or worse; and

25 WHEREAS, the movement began as a call to action in response to state-sanctioned
26 violence and anti-black racism and carries an intention to connect people from all over the
27 world who have a shared desire for justice and a shared desire to act together in their
28 communities for a fundamental reordering of society wherein black lives are free from
29 systemic dehumanization; and

1 WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement acknowledges, respects, and
2 celebrates differences and commonalities and intentionally builds and nurtures a beloved
3 community that is bonded together through a struggle that is restorative, not depleting; and

4 WHEREAS, the number of black people killed by police officers, the number of
5 unarmed people of all races killed by police officers, and the number of unarmed black
6 people killed by law enforcement has seen a sharp decline; however, progress is not a reason
7 for complacency; and

8 WHEREAS, although some progress has been made, cameras continue to capture the
9 atrocities seemingly committed against a single demographic with impunity and ultimately
10 a lack of justice; and

11 WHEREAS, combating police violence is not about determining the motivations of
12 individual "bad apples" but about understanding how a network of government-sponsored
13 brutality across local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies can create persistent terror
14 in black communities and treat black people with utter disdain with little consequence; and

15 WHEREAS, Black Lives Matter recommits daily to healing and co-creating,
16 alongside comrades, allies, and family, a culture where each person feels seen, heard, and
17 supported; and

18 WHEREAS, in affirming that black lives matter, no position qualification is
19 necessary, because to love and desire freedom and justice for black people is a prerequisite
20 for wanting the same for others; and

21 WHEREAS, conversations around allyship have come to the forefront recently as it
22 will take people of all races and backgrounds to stand in support of marginalized groups who
23 are continuously shortchanged by justice; and

24 WHEREAS, it is important that our society learn to become comfortable with being
25 uncomfortable and acknowledge that true change requires real struggle and difficult
26 conversations.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 commend the Black Lives Matter organization for its dedication to nonviolent civil action
3 that focuses on systemic racism and gun violence meted out to black people and for shedding
4 light on the issue of racial inequality that underpins virtually every aspect of our country and
5 world.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 21 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Marcelle

Commends the Black Lives Matter organization for its dedication to nonviolent civil action that focuses on systemic racism and gun violence and fighting for freedom, liberation, and justice.