

AUGUST 2020

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY PLATFORM

The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) promotes transformational police accountability and public safety measures at the federal, state, and local levels through changes to laws and policies, public education, and community organizing strategies. Please join us in demanding that elected officials and policymakers take the following actions to address police violence and misconduct.

Enact transformative laws that:

- **End qualified immunity**, a defense that shields officers from being sued and has been interpreted by courts so broadly that it allows officers to engage in unconstitutional acts with impunity.
- **Change the statutory state of mind** required to violate the federal criminal civil rights statute, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 242, from willful to reckless, permitting prosecutors to successfully hold law enforcement accountable for the deprivation of civil rights and civil liberties.
- **Repeal or amend state and local laws** that shield police misconduct disciplinary records from the public.
- **Adopt a federal standard** that requires the use of force to be used only when necessary as a last resort after exhausting reasonable options and incentivizes states through federal funding mechanisms to implement this standard.
- **Protect and respect the constitutional rights of protesters** by prohibiting the use of militarized crowd control tactics and problematic surveillance practices.
- **Prohibit racial profiling** and require robust data collection on police-community encounters and law enforcement activities.
- **Prohibit all police neck hold maneuvers**, including chokeholds and carotid control holds.
- **Prohibit the use of no-knock warrants**, especially for drug searches.

Adopt transformative policies and practices that:

- **Support a reimagining of public safety** that drastically reduces the presence of and need for armed law enforcement in Black and Brown communities.
- **Reduce the budgets of police departments** and redirect the funds to underfunded agencies and community-based programs best equipped to address experiences or behaviors that are often inappropriately criminalized, such as homelessness, substance use, and behavioral health crises.
- **Remove police from schools** and promote positive school climates through student support services.
- **Eliminate federal programs** that provide military equipment to law enforcement.
- **Develop a national public database** that would compile the names of officers who have been fired, forced to resign, or had their licenses revoked due to misconduct.
- **Negotiate police union contract** provisions to ensure police officers are held accountable for misconduct promptly and appropriately. Please see LDF's [Community Oversight of Police Union Contracts - A toolkit](#).