

**Senate Bill**

**Act Number: 2023-03**

**6 February 2023**

**Introduced by: Senate Vice President Aime Lara**

**Proposed by: Senate President Ashley Gomez**

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

**Whereas:** On January 7, 2023 Tyre Nichols was pulled over by police for an alleged traffic violation after photographing a sunset, according to accounts from his family. A confrontation ensues, and he is brutally beaten by five Memphis police officers in an encounter that is recorded by police body cameras;

**Whereas:** Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills Jr. and Justin Smith each face several charges, including second-degree murder, aggravated assault, aggravated kidnapping, official misconduct, and official oppression;

**Whereas:** On January 30th, 2023 three EMT's who responded to the fatal beating of Tyre Nichols were fired after an internal investigation, the Memphis Fire Department said. Robert Long, JaMichael Sandridge and Lt. Michelle Whitaker were found to have violated multiple department policies in their patient response to Nichols on Jan. 7, the fire department said in a statement;

**Whereas:** In the recent years there has been an extreme rise in violent altercations between police and civilians, resulting in 1,192 civilian deaths in 2022 ([policeviolencereport.org](http://policeviolencereport.org)), with legal intervention deaths rising 45% from 1993 to 2013. While African-Americans make up 12% of the American population, they make up 26% of those who were killed by police in 2022 (National Library of Medicine);

**Whereas:** According to the BBC, American police officers are trained for an average of 21 weeks, which is much shorter than many other developed countries, and much more of this training is focused on firearms training (71 hours) rather than de-escalation training (21 hours);

**Whereas:** An increase of brutal altercations displays a pattern of adverse systemic forces against minority populations;

**Whereas:** Per capita data indicates that American law enforcement officers commit acts of murder at immensely higher rates than officers representing other developed countries.

**Whereas:** On January 30th, 2023 Ramapo College President Cindy Jebb sent a message from the Office of the President and emphasizes “ Our motto of Be Bold, Be Kind, Be Good Teammates requires us to pause, to think, and to act in accordance with our values and with our emergent strategic plan that calls for us to, ‘Promote an environment that elevates voices, examines structures of power and privilege, and creates justice-oriented actions and solutions.’”;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA honors the life of Tyree Nicoles, condemns the alleged actions of the police officers & EMTs in this incident, and denounces all acts of violence and police brutality;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA pledges its support for the Black community at Ramapo College of New Jersey and will work with the campus community, including but not limited to the Black Student Union and its affiliated organizations to develop programming to educate and raise awareness on the recent events and the recurring acts of police brutality towards individuals in the Black community;

**THEREFORE TO BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA calls on our representatives in the federal government to push for the passing of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act (2021);

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** We encourage the support of Public Safety and the local police departments that serve in emergencies of Ramapo College to stand in solidarity with the SGA in condemning the events and actions of the police officers and EMTs involved in the death of Tyre Nichols.

*Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya*

Paolo Miyashiro Bedoya  
President '22 - '23

*Ashley Gomez*

Ashley Gomez  
Senate President '22 - '23