



**GREATER FAIRBANKS BRANCH
NAACP UNIT 1001
P.O. Box 84437
Fairbanks, AK 99708**

NAACP Position Statement on Policing and Our Community

It's the conviction of the Greater Fairbanks NAACP Unit #1001 that all residents in Fairbanks have the right to respectful, safe, and equitable police protection and conduct regardless of age, race, gender, religion, sexuality, mental or physical health status. We advocate for more effective restorative criminal justice policies, and an integrated community-care approach to policing that includes, but is not limited to, addiction and mental health advocates, judicial discretion in sentencing, and an end to racial disparities within the Fairbanks City Police Department interactions.

The NAACP acknowledges the need for a beneficial presence of the police department in our community, having as its primary goal the prevention of violence and fatalities, the protection of citizens and the maintenance of order. Therefore, we believe that a successful, fully-functioning police department that is adequate to serve the needs of our community will:

- Prioritize including civilian representatives for a Police Chief hiring committee from Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ, marginalized communities, individuals with disabilities, mental and behavioral health professionals and advocates, as well as military personnel.
- Include ongoing Antiracism, Implicit Bias, Cultural Competency, and De-escalation training for police officers and administration.
- Maintain a Community Mental health response and patrol team to assist Police with mental health incidents and minor infractions.
- Maintain a transparent Citizen Police review commission that meets regularly; the membership representative to the demographics of our community.

Background

The NAACP acknowledges its members' and community's grief in the knowledge that in the past five and a half years, there have been 43 people killed by Alaska law enforcement officers. A single Fairbanks Police Department Officer was involved in three separate incidents that resulted in fatalities. (Boots, Michelle Theriault. *"43 people have been killed by Alaska law enforcement officers in the last 5 1/2 years. Here's what we learned by examining each case."* Anchorage Daily News. 3 August, 2020. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/08/03/43-people-have-been-killed-by-alaska-law-enforcement-officers-in-the-last-five-and-a-half-years-heres-what-we-learned-by-examining-each-case/>)

In support of the preceding document, the NAACP affirms that Black lives do matter, as do the lives of Police officers and First Responders. This document is in response to the systematic oppression, discrimination, and unjustifiable murders of people of color in the United States, here in Fairbanks, and around our state since first contact and reconstruction. Black and Indigenous lives, People of Color, and other marginalized people are disproportionately killed and incarcerated in alarmingly greater numbers than White citizens.

The NAACP believes we have earned the right to this focus with our lost and imprisoned lives.
