

To: SSSP Board of Directors
From: David G. Embrick, Chair, Committee on Social Action
Re: Annual Report of the Committee
Date: July 30, 2018

The Committee on Social Action received four resolutions this year, addressing crucial issues: renewable energy and justice for workers, and disarming campus police. All of the resolutions were received before the June 1 deadline. The first resolution was sent by Todd Vachon on behalf of the Labor Studies Division; the second resolution was sent by Amara Miller and B.B. Buchanan.

The first two resolutions were sent out for review by the members of the Committee on Social Action and all of the Division Chairs. One Division Chair responded with some minor editorial suggestions that were incorporated into the final draft, and some concerns with regard to the second resolution. Although there are only two resolutions this year, they are both an incredibly strong set of resolutions. Thanks to the members of the Committee on Social Action and Division Chairs for vetting the resolutions. Special thanks, in particular, to Michele Koontz, for guiding (and nudging) me through this entire process, and to Héctor Delgado for his continued support.

The four resolutions that are now before the general membership for consideration at the annual meeting are provided below:

**2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

Compiled by David G. Embrick, SSSP Vice-President

1. "Resolution on Just Transition to Renewable Energy with Justice for Workers and Frontline Communities"
Submitted by Todd Vachon on behalf of the Labor Studies Division
 2. "Resolution on Disarming Campus Police"
Submitted by Amara Miller and B.B. Buchanan
 3. "Thanking Outgoing Social Problems Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz and the Social Problems Community of Scholars"
Submitted by Anna Maria Santiago (Chair) on behalf of the Editorial and Publications Committee
 4. "Expression of Gratitude"
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RESOLUTION 1: Just Transition to Renewable Energy with Justice for Workers and Frontline Communities

Submitted by Todd Vachon on behalf of the Labor Studies Division

WHEREAS, the SSSP has previously acknowledged the overwhelming scientific consensus that global climate change is due to human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation that have caused a dramatic increase in the levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the SSSP has resolved to stand in solidarity with the policies, targets, and practices established by the Paris Climate Accord; and

WHEREAS, national and global income and wealth inequality continues to rise to levels never before seen;

WHEREAS, moving rapidly toward a renewable energy economy can—with the right policies in place—be the source of large numbers of new, well-paying jobs that will reinvigorate local economies; and

WHEREAS, climate justice and economic justice can only be achieved when working people and frontline communities are at the center of the transition to renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, a variety of policy tools are available to move rapidly toward renewable energy while providing well-paying stable jobs, income protection, and retraining for workers and communities adversely affected; including, but not limited to: 1) a progressive tax on carbon pollution with the revenue used to support the income, retraining, and provision of new jobs for workers and communities hurt by the transition and those that have historically borne the brunt of pollution from these facilities; and 2) policies referenced in the *Clean Energy Worker Just Transition Act*, and the “100 By 50” Act that seeks to move towards 100% renewable energy by 2050 while providing protection for workers and communities affected by the transition, and also lowering barriers that make it difficult to organize workers into unions in the new renewable energy jobs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SSSP reaffirms its support for the Paris Agreement as a contribution to driving a rapid and managed just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSSP will support measures that provide strong protection for workers and communities that are adversely affected by the transition away from fossil fuels, such as those detailed in the *Clean Energy Worker Just Transition Act* and the “100 By 50” Act; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSSP supports the demands of frontline communities for environmental justice, including access to newly created jobs in the renewable energy sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSSP will work to inform and mobilize members and their families alongside other social forces in support of a just transition to a renewable energy economy.

RESOLUTION 2: Resolution on Disarming Campus Police

Submitted by Amara Miller and B.B. Buchanan

WHEREAS, the history of policing is a history of racial terror; one which grows directly out of runaway slave patrols, the black codes¹, and anti-immigrant border patrols,

WHEREAS, the history of policing is also a history of class oppression and violence against union organizing, including roots in capitalist systems that frame disabled populations as “demographic threats”,

WHEREAS, police have also historically targeted gender and sexual minorities in support of a heteropatriarchal legal system,

WHEREAS, campus police greatly increased their presence and power on university campuses in the 1960s and 70s to quell student protest², especially those led by marginalized populations,

WHEREAS, many campuses have a long history of activist suppression,³ including but not limited to the UC Davis pepper spray incident of 2011⁴; and,

WHEREAS, university campuses continue to exhibit incidents of racialized violence by police forces⁵, and in which their access to weapons increases their threat to the students and university workers,⁶

WHEREAS, police violence on university campuses continues to disproportionately affect and endanger those who are not only people of color, but also those who are disabled,⁷ LGBTQ+,⁸ and/or lower-income student and worker populations,⁹

WHEREAS, police forces have increasing access to military-grade weaponry and vehicles.¹⁰ Although a temporary ban was placed on this by then President Obama, our new president has promised to reinstate the transfer of military grade weapons to police departments¹¹.

WHEREAS, despite not needing deadly weapons in the course of their job, campus police continue to utilize a culture of fear around school shootings to justify their increasing armory of military grade hardware¹²

WHEREAS, there is evidence that campus police rarely intervene in school shootings until after the events are resolved¹³, when they mostly serve to provide secondary support. Despite not demonstrating need, we still see a move towards increased militarization and armament,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) calls for higher education systems to disarm their campus police of all lethal and military-grade hardware.

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSSP calls on universities to provide guidelines for non-police, community-based responses to community wellness issues such as mental health crises or smoking in non-smoking areas, so that even the possibility of unnecessary stop and frisk, search, threat of violence or other escalation is removed from everyday life on campus for all members of the community.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Officer of the SSSP will pen a letter to the editor of *The New York Times*, with duplicates sent to the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Huffington Post*, the *National Public Radio (NPR)*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Washington Post*, and the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) on the dangers presented by an increasingly militarized and armed campus police force, and which outlines the dangers police have posed to the student body in the past, based in rigorous and empirical data drawn from historical and social research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the SSSP reasserts our commitment to fairness, equity, and equality by standing in solidarity with marginalized and hyper-policed students and communities, and calling for the development of student services that are not dependent on police intervention.

1 <https://worxintheory.wordpress.com/2014/12/07/origins-of-the-police/>

2 <https://www.vox.com/2015/7/29/9069841/university-of-cincinnati-police>

3 https://www.jstor.org/stable/40223829?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

4 <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/08/22/1123006/-Now-We-Know-What-the-UC-Davis-Police-Union-Thinks-of-Pike-Justified-With-His-Use-of-Pepper-Spray#>

5 <http://www.davisvanguard.org/2015/09/studying-while-black-former-student-shaken-by-police-encounter-on-ucd-campus/>

6 <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1088868317725419>

7 <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/07/police-school-resource-officers-k-12-misconduct-violence/>

8 https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/death-georgia-tech-student-highlights-lgbtq-mental-health-nee_ds-n802621

9 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07418825.2018.1463389>

10 https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/22/world/americas/campus-police-acquire-military-weapons.html?_r=0

11 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/aug/22/donald-trump-return-military-equipment-police>

12 <https://www.npr.org/2015/07/30/427806790/many-colleges-have-armed-police-squads-but-are-they-worth-the-risk>

13 <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/10/oregon-shooting-gun-laws-213222>

RESOLUTION 3: Thanking Outgoing *Social Problems* Editor Pamela Anne Quiroz and the *Social Problems* Community of Scholars

Submitted by Anna Maria Santiago (Chair) on behalf of the Editorial and Publications Committee

WHEREAS during the past four years (2014-2018), Pamela Anne Quiroz has served as Editor of *Social Problems*, the official journal of the Society for the Study of Social Problems; and

WHEREAS Nilda Flores-González served as Co-Editor of *Social Problems* during 2014-2015; and

WHEREAS Pamela Anne Quiroz and the Editorial Office Team of Brandi Vigil, Lydia Hou and Deana Lewis at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Maira Álvarez and Devon Jones at the University of Houston have served *Social Problems* and the Society with integrity, professionalism and passion; and

WHEREAS Amy Jo Woodruff has served as Production Editor for the journal for multiple editors of *Social Problems*; and

WHEREAS Associate Editors Amanda Baumle, Hector Carillo, Sharon Collins, Heather Dalmage, David Embrick, Roberto Gonzalez, Cedric Herring, Moon Kie Jung, Tracy Xavia Karner, Maria Krysan, Maria Monserud, and Rogelio Saenz have provided substantive and methodological expertise and commitment to scholarly excellence; and

WHEREAS 75 Advisory Board members have provided expertise to *Social Problems* in their substantive and methodological areas of specialization during this editorship; and

WHEREAS under the leadership of Pamela Anne Quiroz, a Student Advisory Board comprised of more than two dozen students across the country made substantial contributions to *Social Problems*; and

WHEREAS under the leadership of Pamela Anne Quiroz and co-chairs Kasey Henricks and Devon Goss, the journal created the Social Media Committee whose work has expanded the outreach of *Social Problems*, increased the visibility of the journal's authors and the recognition given to scholarship in the pursuit of social justice; and

WHEREAS Pamela Anne Quiroz and her Editorial Team have prepared an Editorial User Guide to support future Editors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Society for the Study of Social Problems, meeting in convention in Philadelphia, PA, praises and thanks Pamela Anne Quiroz, the Editorial Team for *Social Problems*, and the Community of Scholars who have supported the work of the journal.

RESOLUTION 4: Expression of Gratitude

Our sincere appreciation is expressed to all of the officers, committee chairs, and members who have made this program possible and whose efforts maintain the vitality of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). First, we thank President Luis A. Fernandez for his outstanding leadership in developing the 68th Annual Meeting and its theme: *Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems*. We also thank this year's Program Committee members Michelle A. Harris, Meghan G. McDowell, and Ana Muñiz, but especially the committee's chair, A. Javier Treviño, for putting together such an excellent program; and Local Arrangements Committee Chair Adriana Leela Bohm and her committee Raquel Kennedy Bergen, William Cabin, CiAuna Heard, and Cameron T. Whitley. We thank the staff of the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel for our accommodations, and we particularly want to recognize the efforts made by Stefanie Mattera, Associate Director of Sales; Brittany Caserta, Director of Convention Services; and Chelsea Cioppi, Group Rooms Coordinator.

The Society wishes to express its gratitude to Past President Donileen R. Loseke for her years of leadership; Vice-President David G. Embrick for managing the resolutions process; Glenn W. Muschert for his service as Secretary; and Patrick Donnelly (outgoing) for his extraordinary service over the last three years as Treasurer.

The Society also thanks Nancy J. Mezey, President-Elect; William Cabin, Vice-President-Elect; Board of Directors: Sarah Jane Brubaker, Claire M. Renzetti, Maralee Mayberry, Fernando I. Rivera outgoing members Louis Edgar Esparza, Saher Selod, Elroi J. Windsor, student representatives of the Board Sarah A. St. John (outgoing) and Maria D. Duenas; Bhoomi K. Thakore (outgoing), Chairperson of the Council of the Divisions; Kristen M. Budd, Chair-Elect of the Council of the Divisions; Pamela Anne Quiroz, outgoing Editor of *Social Problems*; Lauren Eastwood, Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee Chair and committee members, Susan M. Carlson (outgoing), Heather Dillaway, and Patrick Donnelly; Anna Maria Santiago, outgoing Editorial and Publications Committee Chair and committee members Valerie Jenness, Jackie Krasas, Heather MacIndoe, Loretta E. Bass, Valerie Leiter, Lauren Eastwood, Becky Pettit, and Pamela Anne Quiroz; and the University of Tennessee and the Department of Sociology for hosting the SSSP Administrative Office. A special thanks to Northern Arizona University, Office of the Provost, Department of Sociology and Social Work, and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice for their financial contributions to program activities and to Oxford University Press for subsidizing the purchase of the conference bags.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has selected Dr. Annulla Linders and Dr. Earl Wright II of the University of Cincinnati as the 2019-2021 Editors of *Social Problems*. We are as excited to have Annulla and Earl as our new editors, as they are to take on this critical responsibility for the SSSP. As we welcome them, we want to thank our current editor, Dr. Pamela Anne Quiroz, and the *Social Problems* editorial staff for their hard work over the past four years.

In addition to selecting Annulla and Earl as our new editors, the Board also voted to amend our contract with Oxford University Press for another five years (January 1, 2020-December 31, 2024). This is an exciting time for the Society and *Social Problems*, and as always, we are open to your ideas for ways to improve our superb journal.

The Society wishes to thank Executive Officer Héctor L. Delgado, Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager Michele Smith Koontz, Information Technology Specialist Rachel Cogburn, Administrative Assistant Marisa Stone, Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster Caitlin Mize and the leaders of the 22 Divisions for continuing to make the organization run and do all that it does year in and year out.