June 9th, 2020



**TO:** Salem Keizer School District Superintendent Christy Perry, Board Members, and Administration

RE: Solidarity with Black and Brown students and end police presence in our schools

On behalf of the more than 2,000 youth of color that Latinos Unidos Siempre has served since 1996, we write to demand that the Salem Keizer School District superintendent, board members and district officials, stand in solidarity with Black and Brown students by ending all funding that places police in our schools, known as School Resource Officers (SROs), by terminating its contracts with the Salem and Keizer Police Departments and the Marion County Sheriff's office, and any other law enforcement agencies. We demand that these divested funds are reinvested into improving our education.

In the last few weeks, the world has witnessed the brutal death of George Floyd, a Black unarmed man, father, brother, son and community member, killed by Minneapolis Police. We deeply mourn with George Floyd's family, and we stand with Black communities across the nation. Now, more than ever, we are committed to dismantling the systems and institutions of oppression that kill Black and Brown people, that put us in prisons and that push us out into the margins.

We ask the Salem Keizer School District to stand with ALL their students and put the students most at risk of police violence at the forefront of their decision making. For nearly 25 years, LUS has strongly advocated to end the school to prison and deportation pipeline in our school district. While there have been small advances, most of the serious issues have been ignored by our school district leaders. One being the amount of funding that goes into our school district to police students.

WE DEMAND THAT THE SALEM KEIZER SCHOOL DISTRICT END ALL FUNDING GOING INTO POLICE IN SCHOOLS, IMMEDIATELY AND INDEFINITELY

WE DEMAND THAT THE SALEM KEIZER SCHOOL DISTRICT TERMINATE/DO NOT RENEW CONTRACT WITH SALEM & KEIZER POLICE DEPARTMENTS, AND MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE THAT PLACES SROS IN SALEM-KEIZER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 9th, 2020



Thanks to research by students form New York University, we know that the Salem Keizer School District spends about \$20 million on policing within schools annually, and that the city has spent considerable funds on expanding its police department and improving police facilities.

Additionally, the federal government has invested over 14 billion dollars since 1992, on policing in schools across the nation<sup>3</sup>

Police presence in schools is a clear systemic issue that must be fixed through funding. We can no longer wait for our leaders to understand why police presence in school is so dangerous. We will not allow another Black or Brown life to be taken, especially in our community.

We must follow the lead of all the Black students in Minneapolis school district, who terminated their contract with their city's police department.<sup>4</sup> On Thursday, June 5th, Portland Public Schools took the step in defunding police in their schools. Portland is the largest school district in Oregon, as the second largest school district, Salem-Keizer CAN and SHOULD follow this lead.<sup>5</sup>

On the week of June 5th, we witnessed how a Salem Police Chief protected a group of white armed militia men, and known white supremacists, outside of a downtown business, while at the same time criminalizing the hundreds of peaceful demonstrators for Black Lives Matter. This has made Black and Brown youth feel increasingly unsafe.

Police violence towards Black and Brown communities is not just an interpersonal racial issue, it is a system and institutional issue that must be ended. By ending funding that goes into police in our school district, our school district will show that it prioritizes the safety of students of color and their education. Current funding that goes into policing students, can be invested to improve education.

4 https://news.yahoo.com/minneapolis-public-school-board-vote-050001236.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Policing: Includes all budget allocated into systemic policing of students, not just SROs. This includes staff, administrative, operational and equipment costs. Policing can include school security guards, security cameras, behavioral specialists etc. This is about removing infrastructures that increase and encourage policing of students. Police free schools are the beginning of our struggle.

NYU Wagner Advocacy Lab / Center for Popular Democracy, Latinos Unidos Siempre, Angelique Molina, Emily Moffa, Gina Song, Javon Robinson, Tasia Hawkins, May 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/portland-wont-use-police-in-school-following-protests/ar-BB152Jhy

https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/davidmack/salem-oregon-cop-warn-white-armed-men-playing-favorites

June 9th, 2020



# WE DEMAND THE SALEM KEIZER SCHOOL DISTRICT DIVEST SCHOOL POLICE FUNDS TO SUPPORT BLACK, INDIGENOUS STUDENTS OF COLOR IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

- Divest current police funds and reinvest into culturally responsive in-school counseling services
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into hiring more staff and educators of color
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into ethnic studies programs for middle school and high schools
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into arts and music education in predominantly Black and Brown schools
- Divest current police funds and reinvest in culturally responsive after school activities
- Divest current police funds and reinvest in culturally responsive services for students with behavioral and physical disabilities
- Divest current police funds and reinvest in creating programs and partnerships with community-led organizations led by Black, Indigenous, People of color
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into culturally responsive mentoring and tutoring programs for predominately Black and Brown schools
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into the expansion of college prep programs for predominantly Balck and Brown schools
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into restorative justice models and systems within our schools
- Divest current police funds and reinvest into better transportation services/choices for students

## AND ADVOCATE WITH US TO DIVEST FEDERAL COPS OFFICE FUNDS AND REINVEST INTO EQUITABLE EDUCATION FUNDS 7

• The 14 billion dollars that will be going into policing in schools for the next decade can be divested into supporting school districts to implement the above

We know that the Salem-Keizer School District will soon be faced again with having to make cuts to this budget. Now more than ever, it is important that you act by investing in what is right.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants

June 9th, 2020



We ask that you stand with Black and Brown communities during these times. Your decisions will be noted by the Salem-Keizer community, by all of Oregon as well as nationwide. The decision you make today will be noted in history.

In Solidarity,

### Sandra Hernandez Lomeli

Director Latinos Unidos Siempre

### With the strong support of;

### Levi Herrera-Lopez

Executive Director Mano a Mano Family Center



### **Katherine Terenzi**

Senior Campaign and Policy Strategist Education Justice Campaigns



### Se-ah-dom Edmo

Executive Director MRG Foundation



### **Emily Lai**

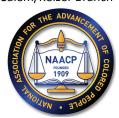
Executive Director

Momentum Alliance

### **Eric Richardson**

Eugene/Springfield Branch
Benny Williams

Salem/Keizer Branch



### **Pedro Sosa**

American Friends Service Committee



### **Annalivia Palazzo-Angulo**

**Executive Director** 



### **Bethany Renata Longberg**

Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation

### Reyna Lopez

Executive Director PCUN



### **Adrina Miranda**

**Executive Director** 



### **Debbie Cabrales**

Executive Director Centro de Servicios



### Jaime Arredondo

Executive Director Capaces Leadership Institute

June 9th, 2020









### KC

Co-Chair



### **Becky Gilliam**

Pacific Northwest Regional Policy Manager Safe Routes Partnership



### **Paul Krissel**



### **Clair Clark**

Co-coordinator for 350 Salem OR



### **Kelly Carlos**

Cultural Group Huitzilopochtli

### Supporting Businesses

## Maura ryan



### Rebecca Velazquez

Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas



**Jackie Leung** 

**ISLANDER** 

**MICRONESIAN** 



### Individuals

### **Jackie Leung**

City of Salem Councilor Ward 4

### **Shelaswau Crier**

Community Member Salem Keizer School District Parent

### **Deb Patterson**

Community Member

### **Colin Cole**

PhD Candidate, Educator College of Education **Oregon State University** 

### **COMMUNITY**

## <u>Micronesian</u>

### Mindy Merritt

Salem Keizer Education Association President

### **Jonathan Jones**



### **Robin Perry**

TICKET TO PLAY CAFE LLC

### Michelle Suess

**Business Owner** Michelle Suess, Realtor

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS: Community Members, Students, Parents, Business Owners

\*This list is ongoing as we continue to gather signatures

Abigail Heumann Community members

Abigail Mosqueda Salem-Keizer school district staff

Addis Wagener Former Student

Adriana Escorcia Lopez Student, graduates from McKay

Adrienne Fischer Community Member, parent of future student

Agustina Torres Community member

Alejandra Mendez Former student

Alex freeman Community member

Alex Korsunsky community member, SKSD graduate

Alexander Branch Community member, brother to students

Amorette Drexler Parent, teacher

Amy Hiatt Parent and community member

Ana Arredondo Franco Community Member

Ana Escobedo-Barraza Former Student

Andrea A Newman Community

Andrea Champagne Parent & community member

Andrea Heywood Parent
Andrea smith Parent

Andrew Kalmen Community members

Anh-Thu Nguyen Community member, student

Anna Franco Community Member

Anna Siqueira da Silva Teacher

Anthony Galenbeck

Ashley Russell

Ashley Talley

Asia Moore

Community Member

Community member

Community member

Audrey L Hoyt

Parent to two children in the Salem Keizer School District

Audrey von Maluski Teacher

Autumn Breitwieser Parent/Community Member/Public Educator

Bailey Anderson SKPS Teacher

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

**Benjamin D. Martin Horst** Parent

Beth Knudsen Community Member

Bob Rossi DSA

Bonnie Davidson Community Member
Brady Baldwin Former Student

BRADY BRITTSAN Parent

Brandi Paul Community member
Brandon Phyll Miller Community member
Brandon Pike Community member

Brian Neal Student

Brooke Schelar Community member
Bryn Lerud Community member

Brynn Eiffler Community member and parent

**Buffy Cawthon** Parent

Byron Kimball Community member

Candia Lee Devine Parent

Carla Perkins Community member

Community member

Carli Rohner Parent

CarolineCommunity memberCarter KnutsonCommunity memberCatalin Constantin MititiucCommunity memberCatalina de OnísCommunity memberCatalina SoleilCommunity Member

Caterina Stroud Parent

Charles WynnsCommunity memberChelsea TyusCommunity member

**Christian Flores** Community - past Salem Keizer student

Christina Vasquez Community member

**Christine Shields**Parent

Christopher Nicholas Torres
Parent

Cierra Maher Community member

Claudia Judson Student

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

Claudia Torres Community member

Clifford Eiffler-Rodriguez Parent/Community Member

Conor Foley Community Member

Corinne Wingett Parent of a child with special needs
Cristian Tolento Community member, former student

Cristina Marquez
Cristina Romero
Crystal Burgoyne
Crystal Peralta Rosas
Crystal Phillips Jeffers
Parent
parent

**Cynthia Ramirez** former Salem Keizer student

Cynthia Rivera Former Student, community member

**Daisy Marie Flores** Instructional Assistant Dakota Kuch Community member **Damien M.A. Torres** Community member **Daniel Remington** Community member **Darbie Versoza** Community member Daysi Bedolla **Community Member Deb Patterson** Community member **Debbie Miller** community member **Deejay Whitehead** Community Member

Deisi aguilar Student

Desta Sirrine Parent

Deysi Cisneros Community member

Diana Marquez Guerrero Former student

Diego Frias Community member

**Dillon Sprayberry** Student

**Drake Baker** Former Student

Dylan Chavez Parent

Eduardo Ruiz

Elizabeth Heredia

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community member

June 9th, 2020

**Elizabeth Swan** Past employee of the SalKeiz School District

**Ellen Blezinsky** Community member

Ellen Keithley-Garcia Parent

**Emilia Cubelos** Community member

**Emily York** Teacher

**Emma Dorland** Community member

**Emma Jonas** Community member and general tutor

**Endy Zarate** Former Student

**Eréndira Oropeza** Community member

**Erica Y Ostergren** Parent

**Ericka Thessen** Community member Erik Brambila community member

**Erin Anderson** Parent

Esmeralda Chavez Former student for Salem/Keizer school district

**Ethan W Frank** Community Member **Fabian Hidalgo Guerrero** Community member Felicia Call Previous student **Gary Miller** Community member

**Gonzalo García Reyes** Community member

Grasiela Community member/former student of SKPS

**Greta Bergquist** Community Member **Guadalupe Torres** Community member

**Haley Bond** Former Salem Keizer student, city of Salem resident

**Hannah Curry** 

Auntie (to 3 Niece/ Nephews who are students of Salem **Hannah M Livingston** 

school district)

**Hannah Ready** Community Member

**Heather Oswalt** Parent

**Heather Pitts** Community member

**Hiyori Lawrence** Parent, community member.

**Hollie Oakes-Miller** Community member **Holly Correa** Community member **Ilan Palacios Avineri** Community member

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

**Ira Cuello-Martinez** Former student and community member.

Isabella Medina Student

**Isaiah Swan** District Employee

 Ivy
 Community member

 Izabel Pena-Venegas
 Community member

J. Lynneta Spurling Oregon resident

Jade Jones Community Member

Jaime Wood Community member

Janet Diaz Community member and Parent

Janey Boyd Community member

Janine Martinhorst Parent

Jasmin carmona Community member

Jay Ireland Grandparent

Jazmin mendoza Community member

Jeana Browning Parent
Jeanne Niphan Prasart Parent

Jennifer D Crane Parent and community member, homeowner in Salem

Jennifer Maglinte-Timbrook Parent

Jennifer Salazar Community member

Jennifer Sandeman Parent

Jennifer Tapia Lemus Community Member

Jenny Gleason Parent

Jenny Seward

Jesse Garcia

Jesse Wm. Barton

Jessica

Community member

Community member

Community member

Jessica Braun Former student (NSHS alumnus)

Jessica Martinez Medina 2017 Graduate from Salem Keizer School District

Jessica Randolph

Maldonado Nursing Student

**Jessica Vining** Parent, community member, small business owner.

Jessop Whitehead Community member
Jesus Torres Community member

June 9th, 2020

Jill Hohnstein Concerned community member

Jillian Carey parent Jillian Lowery Parent Jodi Youngblood Parent

Joellen Swan community member **Johanus C Flores** Community member

Johnathon Marchesi Parent

Joleen Braasch Community Member **Jolene Bray** Community member Jonathan Jones Community member Jordan Hitchcock Community Member

Jordon rivera student

**Jorge Cervantes** Community Member Jorge peralta Community member Joshua Dolar Community member

Josie Hummert Parent

Julia Adelsheim Community member

Kalia Flocker Teacher Karen 'McFarlane Holman Parent Karen Bledsoe Educator

Karen Espinoza Community member Kari waddell community member

Karina Guzman Ortiz Parent of two SKSD students

Former Salem-Keizer student, Alumni-Willamette

**Karla Gutierrez-Hernandez** University

Former SKSD student, community member, Admission Karla Gutierrez-Hernandez Counselor/Alumni-Willamette University

Kate student

**Kate Normand Community Member** 

**Katelyn Webb** Parent

**Katherine Fan** Community member

**Katie Kantrowitz** Community Member and Educator

**Katrina Hull** Teacher **Katrina Hull** Teacher

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

Kellie Menghini Teacher

Kelly Carlos Community member

**Kelsey Cornedi**Parent of a school aged child

Kennedy Osegueda Teacher and parent
Kim Davis Community member

Krista Hoffman Parent

Kristen Nebeker Parent and special ed teacher

Kristin Jradi Community Member

Kyle Durkee Community Member

Lacey Smith Former Salem Keizer Student
Larkin Smith Foley Teacher - McKay High School

Laura Adams
Community member
Community member
Community member
Community member

Speech-Language Pathologist for Salem-Keizer Public

Laura Vigeland Schools

Lauren Eldridge Community member/parent

Lauren Ferrell Community member and after-school program teacher

Laurie Dougherty Community member

Lesly R. Student

Levi Herrera-Lopez

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community Member

Community Member

Lisa Shreeve Teacher

Lorenzo Oloñocommunity memberLorie FontaineCommunity MemberLucia LopezCommunity member

Makayla Weeber Student

Makenzie Marsland Community member

Manuel Marcos Gutierrez Student, Community Member

Margaret GanderVo Parent

Margaret Stephens Community member

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

María Martínez-Gutiérrez Community member

Maria Vasquez Community member

Maria Young Parent

Marisol Espinosa Older sibling, community member, graduated student

Marisol RodriguezCommunity MemberMarissa LopezCommunity memberMarla RichCommunity member

Mary Arana Parent

Mary Masla Community member

Mary Nikas Parent
Marysia Koos Student

**Matthew Gilbert Wagener** 

**Ensign** Former Student, Community Member

Maura ryan Business owner

Maxwell RompreyCommunity memberMegan Johnstoncommunity member

Melanie Berry Social Worker, member NASW

Melinda Patton Community member

Melissa Wood Parent

Mercedez AllenCommunity memberMichael KellyCommunity Member

Michael Zinkowski Community member/teacher

Michelle Dickson Salem-Keizer School District Teacher

Michelle Suess Community member

Parent of three Salem-Keizer SD students, community

member

Mikki Trowbridge Community Member

Miriam Guadalupe

Mike Ellison

CumminsCommunity MemberMirna ChavezMentor/IA assistantMolly EdisonCommunity memberMolly RankinTeacher & Parent

Morgan Merriam Parent

Nam Quoc Nguyen Community member

June 9th, 2020

**Nancy Romero** Community member **Nathaniel Owen** Community member

Nicholas d. Voss Parent

Nicholas Solano Community

**Nick Pereyra** Graduate/ community member **Nicole Swindle** parent and community member

Niki Falardeau Activist/Podcaster Olivia Stone Community Member

**Orlando Gonzalez** Student

**Orly Avineri** Community member Oshian Dixon community member **Pablo Brito** Community member

Pam McCollum Grandparent

Pat Donenfeld Community member Patricia R Guild community member **Paul Stich** Community member **Paulo Amaro Community Member Piper Gordillo** Community member Rachal

Rachel Jones Community member

**Rachel Mayhew** Parent

Rachel trindle Community member

**Ranferi Herrera Flores** Community member

Raquel Student- McKay High School

**Raul Marquez Guerrero** Former Student/Community Member

Sister of current student

Ray Quisenberry Community member Rebeca Lopez Former student Rebecca Moyer Community member

**Rebecca Murray** Parent

**Rebecca Papendieck** Community member

Rebekah Engle Teacher

**Robin Perry** Ticket to Play Cafe LLC

June 9th, 2020

Community Member, LCSW with endorsement in School Rosanne O'Connor

Social work

**Ryan Mannon Community Member** Ryan R Mitts community member **Ryan Scott Perkins** community member Sabrina Kelley-Brooks Former student

Sage Avilon Salem community member

Samantha Dunkel Community member San Juana Torres Community member Sarah Crawford Community Member **Sarah Daley** Community Member

Sarah Romanek Parent

Scott Avzaradel Community member

**Sean Carlson** Educator **Sean Nikas** Parent

**Sharlee Blackwell** Community member

**Shea Bodine Watkins** Teacher-Salem Keizer Public Schools

**Shelby Koning** Community member

Sierra Turner Former Student/Community Member

Silvy Kerzman School district staff member

Siobhan Marsh Community member **Snarfy Knutson** Community member **Sophie Goodwin-Rice** Community member

Stacey Jochimsen parent, community member Stephania P Fregosi Parent (starting September)

**Stephanie Freeman** Teacher and parent **Stephany Frias** former student

**Suzanne Barrientos** Community member **Suzanne Huffman** community member **Synthia Mendez** Community Member **Talon Hyatt** Former Student

**Tamrat** Student **Tana Garcia** Teacher

LATINOS UNIDOS SIEMPRE

June 9th, 2020

Tatiana Amrein McKay Alum '16

Taylor Leigh Dowler Community Member

Thuy-Tien Nguyen Community member and former student

Tiffany J Carstensen Parent and Educator

Tina Robertson Educator

**Tobi Nussbaum** Community member

**Tony Franco-Martinez** Community

Tricarico Schwartz

Tyler Hiu

Community member

Community member

Community member

Community member

Virginia Stapleton Parent

Will Landstrom Community member

William Bertellotti Student/Community Member

William Curtis Community member