

*We meet the first Wednesday of the month*



*Celebrating Our 17th Year!*

NOT JUST POLITICS AS USUAL

[longmontdems.org](http://longmontdems.org)

[longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)

# LONGMONT AREA DEMOCRATS

a virtual presentation:

## ACTIVELY COMMITTING TO **anti-racism**

Wednesday, July 1st • 6:30pm

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: Glenda Strong Robinson,  
Madelyn Strong Woodley,  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE Leslie Herod

**PLUS: updates, action items & inspiration!**

Go to [longmontdems.org](https://longmontdems.org)

or email us for the log-in link at:

[longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)

*...not just politics as usual*



*Thanks for logging on...*

***Welcome!***

— When you logged on, you were automatically “muted” (If you hover your mouse over the bottom of the screen, you’ll see the “mute/unmute” icon).

**Please remain muted, thanks!**

**(background noise even if minimal, is distracting to other participants).**



# ***Full screen mode:***

**To view the presentation in “full screen” mode:**

**On the top of the control panel, click the View Menu button and select the Full Screen option. Or, on the tab on the side of the control panel, you can click the View button to toggle between Full Screen and Window viewing.**

**Give us a few minutes so everyone has a chance to login...  
*and thanks for your patience!***



# *Questions*

DURING THE PRESENTATION:

**Please enter questions or announcements into the chat window (the “voice bubble” icon in the menu up top of gotomeeting window). We will have breaks to answer questions throughout the presentation.**

**If we aren't able to answer your question during the question breaks, if you think of something after the presentation, or have a comment, please email us at [longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)**



# ***Elected Officials:***

**Please let us know in the chat box if you've joined our meeting tonight — and thanks for being here!**





**Marilyn Hughes**  
LAD Co-President





# Marisa Dirks

Media & Communications Director



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Longmont Leads with Love Weekly Vigil, Saturdays, 1:00 – 2:00pm, 6th and Main. When vigiling, to protect everyone's health, please remember to wear a mask, maintain 6-foot social distancing, and be sure that no group is larger than 10 people. During Covid-19, the Longmont Leads with Love events have become a "rolling vigil". No need to wait until Saturday at 1:00pm. Just go to 6th & Main whenever you can, for as long as you like. Carry your own message to the community in this hour of our nation's desperate need and tremendous opportunity. You can still vigil at home too: stand in front of your home with the sign you would have brought to Main Street—or put the sign on your lawn or in your window — then take a picture and share it on social media!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

*If you have an announcement, please let us know in the chat window — we'll call on you, thanks!*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*



**Longmont Community Foundation is asking that you make donations to the Strongmont Fund helping local small businesses across our community as they navigate the re-opening process, adapt to the 'new normal' and recover.**

**Any donation of \$100 or more will be eligible for an additional 25% state income tax credit, as the Strongmont Fund is an Enterprise Zone Contribution Project. [longmontfoundation.org](https://longmontfoundation.org) > donate > Strongmont**



**The Boulder County Democratic Party(BCDP)'s Volunteer Team will be holding another Virtual Open House session on Saturday, August 15, 10am–Noon. Use QR code to sign up!**



**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

# TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **Recognize Electeds**
- **TONIGHT: Actively Committing to Anti-racism**
- **Census, Petition, Primary Updates**
- **Calls to ACTION**
- **Wrap Up / Next Event / Where to Find Us**



TONIGHT'S EVENT

Actively Committing to  
**anti-racism**

It's not enough to be "not racist"



# STARTING THE CONVERSATION WITH:

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**Glenda  
Strong Robinson**



**Madelyn  
Strong Woodley**





## Ms. Glenda S. Robinson

is a long-time resident of Longmont, where she founded an award winning Facilities Maintenance Company in 1983. Ms. Robinson is a graduate from California State University, Long Beach with a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice. She is also a graduate of Leadership America.

At the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Ms. Robinson was an impressionable, young Junior at Memphis State University. While there, she became an active participant in Civil Rights activities led by Dr. King just before his death and has since worked tirelessly to make a difference whenever possible.

Ms. Robinson's family relocated in 1980 from California to Colorado with IBM. Continuing her heartfelt concern and sense of social responsibility, Ms. Robinson became actively involved in community service. Her work and efforts to advance change continue.

Her work continues at the elementary, middle, high school, community college and university level, as she continues to tell stories that challenge the human spirit and encourage the heart. She truly believes that each must use our differences to make a difference.

Mrs. Robinson is a licensed, ordained minister and mentor to many. She is an Associate Minister at Second Baptist Church, Boulder. Recently, she also served as a Chaplain Intern at Boulder Community Hospital where she found great satisfaction in serving the staff and patients at the hospital.

She is the proud mother of a daughter, Kendra and a son, Glenn and the grandmother of four. Her proudest moments of late are the most recent twin additions of London and Lincoln Robinson.

### A FEW HIGHLIGHTS ARE:

- Department of Commerce-MEED Week Award (Local and Regional) Winner & National Nominee
- Mayor's Community POSITIVE IMPACT AWARD, City of Longmont
- Board of Directors for
  - Boulder Chamber of Commerce
  - Workforce Boulder County
  - Boulder County Family Self Sufficiency Program
- The City of Longmont, Colorado along with Silver Creek High School's Leadership Academy honored Mrs. Glenda S. Robinson for her community service.
- The Mayor and City Council of the City of Longmont, CO issued a proclamation celebrating Mrs. Robinson as the Founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s weeklong celebration that acknowledges her work and commitment to maintaining the Legacy of Dr. King.
- Executive Committee Member of NAACP, Boulder County





**Madelyn Strong Woodley** is a retired FedEx Corporate Executive & Worldwide Division Head. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the City of Longmont and the Boulder County Communities. Madelyn's Law Enforcement background and involvement with the Tennessee Sheriff's Department have proven beneficial in her most recent role as a member of the Boulder Police Oversight Implementation Team.

She is a Lifetime Member of the NAACP and serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the NAACP Boulder Branch. As a pioneer member of the Longmont Multicultural Action Committee, Madelyn believes in serving her community through volunteerism & service. She has served three terms on the Longmont Housing & Human Services Advisory Board where her involvement promotes the well-being of the Community. Social justice advocacy is a great passion of Madelyn's and something that she has taken to heart for a long time. Her mantra is 'treat others as you would want to be treated'.



*thank you*

Glenda and Madelyn!





STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Leslie Herod**  
*House District 8*





**Representative Leslie Herod (HD-8)** was elected in 2016 as the first LGBTQ African American in the General Assembly, while receiving the highest number of votes of any candidate running in a contested election. She serves as the Chair of the House Finance Committee, Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, and Chair of the Committee on Legal Services. Rep. Herod also chairs the Colorado Black Democratic Legislative Caucus and the Arts Caucus.

Since her election in 2016, Herod has sent 59 bills to the Governor's desk, marshaling through numerous pieces of legislation addressing criminal justice reform, mental health & substance abuse, renewable energy, youth homelessness, and civil rights protections. Her legislative agenda underscores her commitment to improving the lives of all Coloradans, especially those caught in the cycle of poverty or mired in the criminal justice system.



# 2020 Colorado Police Reform Bill

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## SB20-217 ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

*“Today, members, we will be able to intervene and do something about what’s happening in our communities — all of our communities — and has happened for far too long,” Rep. Leslie Herod, a Denver Democrat and one of the prime sponsors of the bill, said Friday as the measure cleared the House. “Black lives matter.”*

— JUNE 13, 2020



# SB20-217 ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY

- Outfit all officers with body cameras
- Release body camera footage within 45 days of a questionable police encounter
- Ban the use of chokeholds and carotid holds
- Collect racial data on officers' encounters with the public
- Report to the state when officers unholster their weapons, point their weapons at a citizen and use deadly force
- Qualified immunity is not a defense to the civil action.



# SB20-217 ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY (continued)

- The bill requires a peace officer to intervene when another officer is using unlawful physical force and requires the intervening officer to file a report regarding the incident. If an peace officer fails to intervene when required, the P.O.S.T.\* shall decertify the officer.

*\*Peace Officer Standards and Training*



# SB20-217 ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY (continued)

The bill states that in response to a protest or demonstration, a law enforcement agency and any person acting on behalf of the law enforcement agency shall not:

- Discharge kinetic impact projectiles and all other non- or less-lethal projectiles in a manner that targets the head, pelvis, or back;
- Discharge kinetic impact projectiles indiscriminately into a crowd; or



# SB20-217 ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENT INTEGRITY *(continued)*

The bill states that in response to a protest or demonstration, a law enforcement agency and any person acting on behalf of the law enforcement agency shall not:

- Use chemical agents or irritants, including pepper spray and tear gas, prior to issuing an order to disperse in a sufficient manner to ensure the order is heard and repeated if necessary, followed by sufficient time and space to allow compliance with the order.



# Defunding the Police

The phrase is not worth all the “hand wringing” when you consider that the inherent racism in municipal policing is “baked in” — after all, ***did you know that the origin of organized policing in the South were the “slave patrols”?***

**The slave patrols kept tabs on the enslaved.** And if black men and women were not on their plantation, the slave patrols could demand to see a slave badge noting their occupation, or could stop and search belongings simply because they wanted to. ***Sound familiar?***



## Defunding the Police *(continued)*

As late as 1837, there were dozens of white officers in the Charleston, SC police department, ***whose sole purpose was to track the whereabouts of slaves.*** All of this enforcing the idea that black people were second-class citizens and whites were the authority.

After emancipation, law enforcement was cast in the role of enforcing Jim Crow laws aimed at maintaining racial separation.



## **Defunding the Police** *(continued)*

Prominent people in communities were members of the KKK, including members of law enforcement. Anywhere they could infiltrate positions of power they would, whether it was the school board, or a city engineer.

***And we know this didn't just happen in the South.***

For instance, Longmont's city council was controlled by the Klan from 1925-27, the same years that Colorado had a Klansman for a Governor — Clarence Morley.

And Benjamin Stapleton, former Mayor of Denver was a Klansman while he was State Auditor in the 1930s.



# **Defunding the Police** *(continued)*

The police in the South during the Civil Rights era **were especially violent toward protestors**, using police dogs and fire hoses. The use of dogs dates back to tracking down slaves.

**To this day, police officers are 2 times more likely to inflict violence on black people than they are on whites, so the problem is entrenched and systemic.**

**A rebuilding of the framework is required.**



# Defunding the Police *(continued)*

**So, how do we do it?:** *Divest in what is not working. Invest in safety and justice, or “justice reinvestment”.*

- **DIVEST to INVEST:** in health care, counseling, libraries, no police in schools, safety not violence, de-escalation training, demilitarization of the police (focus on a new kind of community policing), & more economic development.
- Look at the power of police unions that impose ***qualified immunity***, and how it impedes effective oversight and justice.



# Messaging is important. Words matter.

- Move from calling violence “unfortunate” to calling it what it is: **INJUSTICE**
- Instead of “black people are less likely to get loans” clarify where the problem originates: “banks are less likely to give black people a loan”
- Don’t perpetuate the fake reality that crime is going up, when in fact, it is going down.
- Note when someone uses the term “riot” to describe a protest.



# We propose these important first steps:

- **LISTEN.** Follow black voices on social media, read works from voices outside of white privilege, absorb films created by black film directors and writers.
- **IMMERSE YOURSELF** in the history of racism. It is important to share the historical narrative of the struggle for equality for black and brown people.
- **GET COMFORTABLE WITH DISCOMFORT.**  
**Don't look away, look deeper.** Don't fall into the trap that racism happened only long ago, or somewhere else. If you look, it's in your neighborhood.



## Important first steps: *(continued)*

### ■ CHECK YOUR WHITE PRIVILEGE...CONSTANTLY.

You benefit from what your privilege has guaranteed. See how that directly affects the disenfranchisement of the black community. For instance, did your neighborhood, in its history, ever practice race covenants, also known as the "Jim Crow of the North"? Get curious about the institutions you are involved with. ***Then use your white privilege to make changes.***



## Important first steps: *(continued)*

- **STUDY WITH OTHER PEOPLE.** Talk about this with your family, or an “accountability buddy”. Don’t stay in your head by yourself. Don’t keep it to yourself. **SPEAK WHAT YOU’VE LEARNED.** **Rewiring is essential to unlearning racism.** You cannot lean away from this moment: *what is this moment trying to teach us?*
- **COMMIT.** And make it a *lifelong committment* to be anti-racism.



*“There are an abundance of ideas from black people.  
What there isn’t, is the empowerment of those ideas”*

**Get involved locally and aspirationally.**

**You are building a new reality.**

**Cultivate black leadership locally,  
and encourage the visibility of blacks  
succeeding into our public consciousness.**



# Homework & Resources

**winningjustice.org**

**text "antiracism" to 668366**

(where you'll get updates on the MoveOn  
"Anti-Racism & Allyship" series)

**check the Boulder County chapter of the  
NAACP — consider a membership:  
naacpbouldercounty.org**



# Homework & Resources

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**Read: “The 1968 Kerner Commission Got It Right, But Nobody Listened”** — SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE, 3/1/2018

The fifty-two year old report, commissioned after the 1967 violent riots which killed 43 in Detroit, and 26 in Newark, with findings indicating that “...bad policing practices, a flawed justice system, un-scrupulous consumer credit practices, poor or inadequate housing, high unemployment, voter suppression, and other culturally **embedded forms of racial discrimination** all converged to propel violent upheaval on the streets of African-American neighborhoods in American cities, north and south, east and west.”



# Homework & Resources

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— ***NOT “outside agitators” as was originally purported.***

**Why is this important? Marcia Chatelain, Ph.D,** one of the panelists from the MoveOn “Anti-racism & Allyship” training exclaimed, “...*read the Riot Commission Reports! It’s the same five themes over and over again!*”



# take action:



**Tell Companies to Pause Ads on Facebook During July:** *"Facebook's failure of leadership has actively stoked the racial hatred we see in*

*our country and even profits off its proliferation. A key way for major corporations to demand racial justice is to withhold their dollars until Facebook becomes more responsible and accountable to Black communities on the platform."* — RASHAD ROBINSON, PRESIDENT OF COLOR OF CHANGE

They've gotten 100 companies to sign on...including Verizon and Unilever.



**take action july 7!**

**Black Lives Matter is holding a  
Nationwide Economic Blackout**

*Spend no money on July 7!*

**[www.blackoutday.org](http://www.blackoutday.org)**

**DO NOT SPEND ANY MONEY ON  
JULY 7TH**

THE **BLACK LIVES MATTER  
MOVEMENT** IS HOLDING A  
NATIONWIDE ECONOMIC  
BLACKOUT

BLACK PEOPLE ACCOUNT FOR 1.2  
TRILLION IN ANNUAL US SPENDING

WITH JUST ONE DAY OF NO  
SPENDING BY POC AND ALLIES -  
WE COULD KEEP BILLIONS OUT  
FROM THE ECONOMY

MONEY TALKS, LETS SPEAK THEIR  
LANGUAGE

**WWW.BLACKOUTDAY.ORG**



# More Resources

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**PLEASE READ: Dr. Martin Luther King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", April 16, 1963.** *Please read the whole piece in its entirety: prescient, cautionary, and timeless.*

**goodblacknews.org**

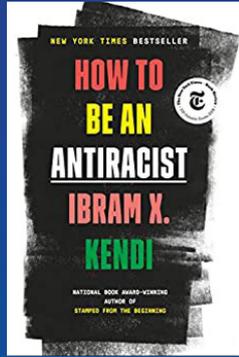
The Good Things Black People Do, Give and Receive All Over The World  
**Lori Lakin Hutcherson** is the Editor-in-Chief, and author of the viral post, "My White Friend Asked Me on Facebook to Explain White Privilege. I Decided to Be Honest", *Yes! magazine*, September 8, 2017.

**themarshallproject.org**

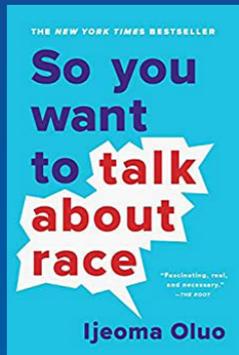
*Non-profit journalism about criminal justice*



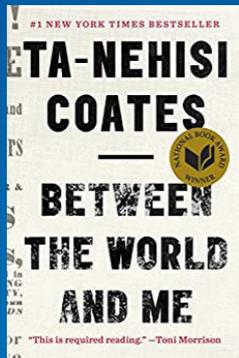
# More Resources



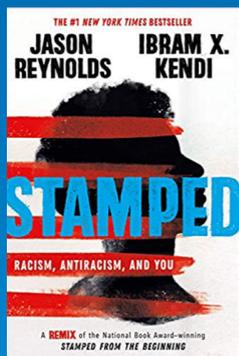
**"How to Be an Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi**



**"So You Want to Talk About Race" by Ijeoma Oluo**



**"Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates**



**"Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" by Ibram X. Kendi & Jason Reynolds**



White supremacy  
won't die until White  
people see it as a  
White issue they need  
to solve rather than a  
Black issue they need  
to empathize with.



Dwayne Reed  
@TeachMrReed



# 2020 Census Update

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# 2020 CENSUS UPDATE

REGION	6/3/2020	7/1/2020
<b>National Self-Response Rate</b>	<b>60.5%</b>	<b>61.8%</b>
<b>Colorado Self-Response Rate</b>	<b>63.1%</b>	<b>65.1%</b>
<b>CD4</b>	<b>65.1%</b>	<b>67.4%</b>
<b>Longmont Self-Response Rate</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>70.6%</b>



# 2020 CENSUS: WHY?

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## *The Census brings money to communities*

- Ensures programs and services such as Medicaid, Section 8 housing vouchers, federal Pell Grants, childcare assistance, Head Start...**If we miss 100 residents, Longmont could lose almost \$1.5 million of dollars in federal funding!**

## *The Census determines how we're represented*

- Determines how many seats states get in Congress — **Colorado will likely gain a congressional seat!**
- Census counts are also used locally to draw boundaries for state legislative school districts.



# 2020 CENSUS: WHY?

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## ***Responding is safe***

Your information is protected by law and confidentiality is guaranteed. Responses are only used to produce statistics; the Census Bureau does not disclose any personal information.

## ***It's required by law***

Everyone living in the United States is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census.



NATIONAL WEBSITE:

**2020Census.gov**

CITY OF LONGMONT:

**longmontcolorado.gov/census**

ALL PRESENTATION MATERIALS AT:

**longmontdems.org**



# **2020 Census Call to Action:**

**POSTCARDS** urging folks to respond to  
the Census, via [commoncause.org](https://www.commoncause.org)!

**CONTACT** Kathy Partridge  
to pick yours up, or arrange for drop off!  
[longmontkathy@gmail.com](mailto:longmontkathy@gmail.com)



# Colorado Primary Update

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# 2020 Nominees:

■ **US Senate: John Hickenlooper**

■ **Boulder County Commissioner, Dist. 2:  
Marta Loachamin**



# 2020 Democratic Party Nomination Process

- **PRIMARY ELECTION Done!**
- **DNC: August 17–20.** *“Anchored in Milwaukee, the 2020 Democratic National Convention will be a ‘Convention Across America’”*  
Go to: [demconvention.com](https://demconvention.com) Submit comment on the platform. Fill out form to commit to watch the proceedings...
- **GENERAL ELECTION Tuesday, November 3**



# **National Mail-In Ballot Action:**

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**It's not enough that Colorado has the mail-in ballot — advocate in *any way that you can* for NATIONAL mail-in ballot legislation! And for your family and friends in other states to secure an absentee ballot NOW.**



# **National Mail-In Ballot Action:**

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- **Read this study in the New York Times: “We Should Never Have to Vote in Person Again” (they have lots of good things to say about Colorado!)**
- **Check out [voteathome.org](http://voteathome.org) for more ideas — absentee ballot signup, etc.**



# **National Mail-In Ballot Action:**

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- **Also check out this site for a general overview of elections in other states, and spread the word! If we have a non-presidential primary coming up June 30, other states do too!:**

**[866ourvote.org](http://866ourvote.org)**



# Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act (NDEBA) of 2020:

*"...to help election officials meet this pandemic head-on. Our legislation will guarantee every voter a secure mail-in paper ballot and help states cover the cost of printing, self-sealing envelopes, ballot tracking and postage."*

**— U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**

Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee with  
oversight jurisdiction over federal elections

**and U.S. Senator Wyden (D-OR)**

*All about the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act: →*



# 4 Save the USPS Actions:

- 1. Buy stamps** [store.usps.com](https://store.usps.com)
- 2. Contact Reps** tell them to include support of the USPS in ANY Coronavirus stimulus bill! **text “resist” to 50409**
- 3. [moveon.org](https://moveon.org)** text MAIL to **668356** to demand full Postal Service funding!
- 4. [votevets.org](https://votevets.org)** sign their petition!



**Join the League of Women Voters in a postcard campaign** in support Colorado being part of the National Popular Vote Compact — ***it will be on your ballot in the fall!*** The League has supported the popular vote since the 1970s.

Each ziplock packet contains approximately 50 postcards complete with instructions.

**Contact the Longmont Coordinator:**

Ruth Stemler at [rjstemler@gmail.com](mailto:rjstemler@gmail.com)



# Petitions to Sign & Where:

## Initiative 271: [fairtaxcolorado.org](http://fairtaxcolorado.org)

- Give a tax cut to 95% of Coloradans (making less than \$250K/yr)
- Guarantee funding for schools & teachers
- Ensure every Coloradan pays their fair share

SIGNATURES DUE:  
**JULY 25**

## **Shari's Porch, 2113 Rangeview Lane, Longmont**

Please wear a mask, there are pens, but if you prefer, bring your own pen!

OR, go to [fairtaxcolorado.org](http://fairtaxcolorado.org), download a single-line signature form, print it, sign it, and mail it in.



# Petitions to Sign & Where:

## RTD District I Candidate: Austin Ward

- *Needs signatures to get onto the November Ballot!*
- **Current RTD Board Director (Dist I)  
Judy Lubow heartily endorses Austin!**
- Austin is willing to drive anywhere you are, to attain those signatures. **Please contact Austin Ward at 719-440-5043 or [auward96@gmail.com](mailto:auward96@gmail.com)** to set up a time and place to safely meet, ask questions of Austin and sign his petition to get onto the November ballot.

SIGNATURES DUE:  
**JULY 25**



# Consider donating to:

**sistercarmen.org**

Providing assistance to residents of Eastern Boulder County who are in need.

**philanthropiece.org**

a non-profit organization based in Longmont



**Would you like to serve on LADs Board?**

CONTACT US AT:

**[longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)**

AND WE'LL SEND YOU AN APPLICATION!



# Next LAD Meeting:

Wednesday, August 5 • 6:30pm

We'll keep you posted!



*We hope you've enjoyed this evening  
and found it informative.*

Don't miss our next meeting...*Tell a friend!*



# WHERE TO FIND US

[longmontdems.org](http://longmontdems.org)



**email:** [longmontareadems@gmail.com](mailto:longmontareadems@gmail.com)



Longmont Area Democrats



LongmontDems

SEND AN EMAIL WITH "SIGN ME UP" IN THE SUBJECT LINE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL BLASTS. SLIDES FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE POSTED ON LONGMONTDEMS.ORG SOON... **THANKS!**



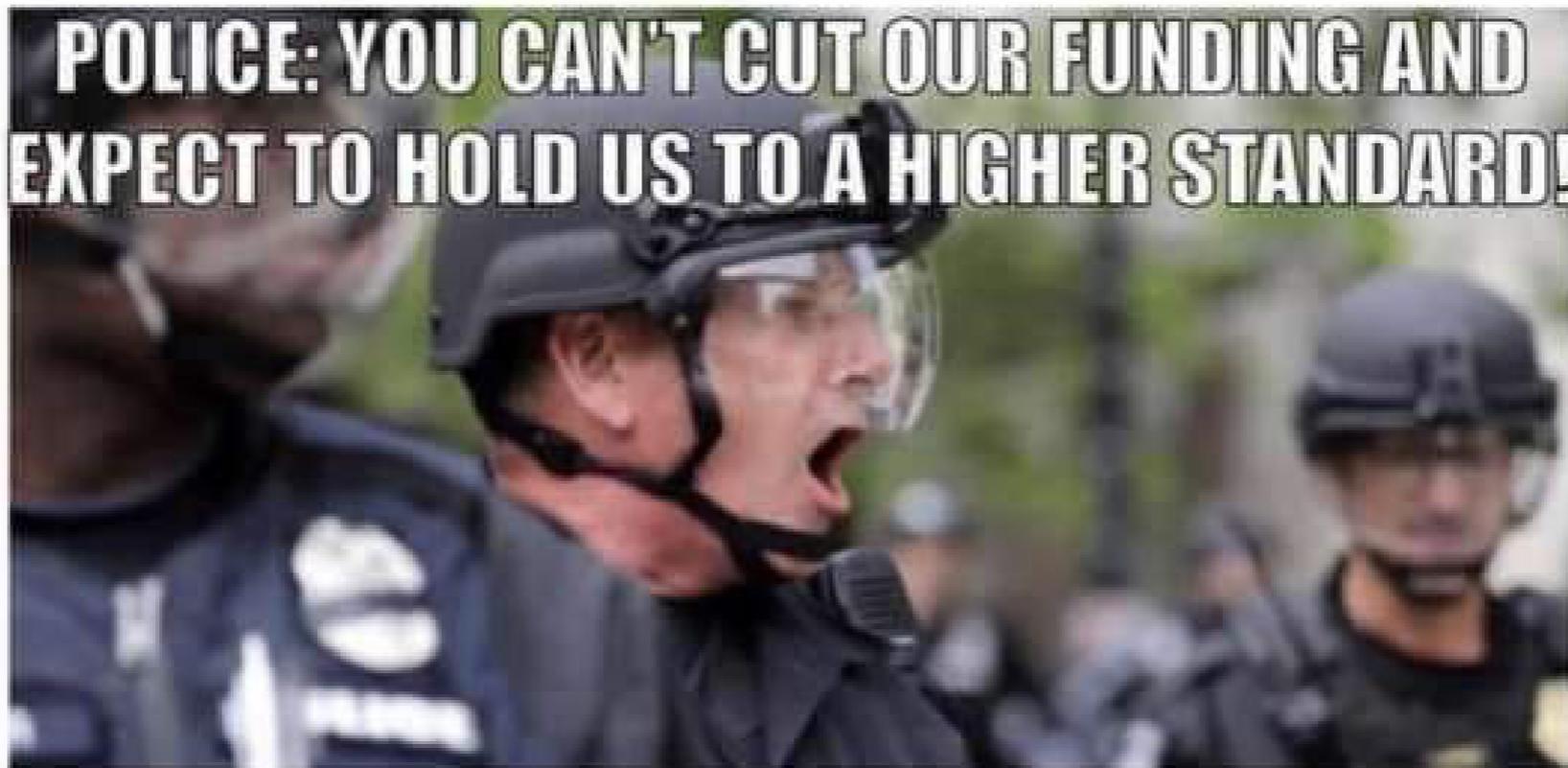
*WE HOPE  
YOU'LL STAY FOR  
A FEW MORE  
MOMENTS...*



2020 needs to just  
pull over and let me  
out...I'll walk



**POLICE: YOU CAN'T CUT OUR FUNDING AND EXPECT TO HOLD US TO A HIGHER STANDARD!**



**TEACHERS: HOLD MY BEER...**





**Jeff Tiedrich**  
@itsJeffTiedrich



thank god we elected the guy who did nothing as Kim Jong-un, Bone Saw Arabia and Vladimir Putin murdered American citizens, journalists and soldiers; and not the lady who was careless with three emails, because holy fucking shit that would have been a national security nightmare

7:28 AM · 6/29/20 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**6,153** Retweets **22K** Likes



# MELVINIA SHIELDS

1844 ~ 1938

THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO  
THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF  
MELVINIA "MATTIE" SHIELDS MCGRUDER.

SHE WAS BORN A SLAVE IN  
SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1844.  
AT AGE 6 SHE WAS BROUGHT TO  
THE NEARBY SHIELDS FARM  
IN WHAT IS NOW  
REX, CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA.  
HER FAMILY WOULD ENDURE A  
FIVE-GENERATION JOURNEY  
THAT BEGAN IN OPPRESSION AND  
WOULD LEAD HER DESCENDANT  
TO BECOME

FIRST LADY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## MICHELLE OBAMA

THEIRS IS A STORY OF HOPE

MELVINIA "MATTIE" SHIELDS MCGRUDER  
IS BURIED IN KINGSTON,  
BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA

# MELVINIA SHIELDS

1844-1938

This memorial is dedicated to the remarkable life  
of Melvinia "Mattie" Shields McGruder.

She was born a slave in South Carolina  
in 1844. At age 6 she was brought to the  
nearby Shields Farm in what is now Rex,  
Clayton County, Georgia. Her family would  
endure a five-generation journey that began  
in oppression and would lead her descendant  
to become

First Lady of the  
United States of America

## MICHELLE OBAMA

Theirs is a story of hope.

Melvinia "Mattie" Shields McGruder is buried in  
Kingston, Bartow County, Georgia.

