

1                                   **Sub 1 2020 RES-215 (Proposed Bayrd) as amended**  
2                                   **IN OPPOSITION TO NO-KNOCK SEARCH WARRANTS**  
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4     The death of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, has raised awareness nationally of  
5     the risks to innocent people of the policing practice of no-knock warrants. It is estimated  
6     that no-knock warrants are currently issued 60,000 to 70,000 times each year in the  
7     United States  
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9     The U.S. Congress has introduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which  
10    includes a ban on no-knock warrants along with other police reforms. The Act,  
11    introduced by U.S. Representative Karen Bass, has 230 co-sponsors and passed the  
12    U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support. It is currently pending before the  
13    U.S. Senate.  
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15    Governor Evers has proposed a number of criminal justice reform actions, including a  
16    bill prohibiting the execution of no-knock search warrants. The Wisconsin State  
17    Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities, which was co-chaired by Rep.  
18    and Sup. Shelia Stubbs and included Dane County Sheriff Calvin Barrett, recommended  
19    that Wisconsin's Department of Justice (DOJ) collect data on the use of no-knock  
20    warrants from all state and local law enforcement agencies, as well as federal law  
21    enforcement agencies, and that Wisconsin's DOJ publish annual reports on the  
22    collected data. The data is critical for Wisconsin lawmakers to understand the  
23    prevalence and circumstances of the use of no-knock warrants in Wisconsin.  
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25    No-knock warrants began during the Nixon Administration to advance the "war on  
26    drugs" in the 1970s and 1980s, with the goal of disrupting criminal activity before there  
27    was an opportunity to destroy evidence. In 1997, the United States Supreme Court  
28    affirmed the use of no-knock warrants to ensure "the effective investigation of crime" by  
29    preserving evidence before it was destroyed.  
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31    A study by the School of Justice Studies at Eastern Kentucky University found that  
32    municipal police and sheriffs' departments used no-knock warrants about 1,500 times  
33    per year in the early 1980s, but that it rose to 40,000 times per year by the year 2000,  
34    and an estimated 60,000-70,000 times per year in 2010. The majority of those raids  
35    were for marijuana.  
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37    A review by the ACLU of federal no-knock warrants in the 2010s found that Blacks and  
38    African Americans are six times more likely than whites to have a no-knock warrant  
39    used on them and that 62 percent of the no-knock warrants were for drug searches, but  
40    that law enforcement found drugs in only 35 percent of those drug searches.  
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42    A New York Times investigation found that at least 94 civilians and 13 law enforcement  
43    officers died in no-knock raids in the U.S. between 2010 and 2016, while many more  
44    were seriously injured.  
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46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors  
47 supports the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.  
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49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests the  
50 Dane County Sheriff's Office to collect data on the use of no-knock warrants in Dane  
51 County and to report that information to the Public Protection and Judiciary Committee  
52 on a quarterly basis.  
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54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the  
55 recommendations of the Speaker's Task Force and urges the Wisconsin DOJ to collect  
56 data on the use of no-knock warrants in Wisconsin.  
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58 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Evers,  
59 the Dane County state legislative delegation and congressional delegation, and Dane  
60 County Sheriff Barrett.