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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Membership of Union Cab of Madison Cooperative approved the following resolution by majority vote during its Special Member Meeting on July 1, 2020:

Resolution of Solidarity with Protests Against Police Violence

Whereas, Minneapolis police officers murdered George Floyd on May 25, 2020, sparking a wave of protests across every state in the United States, and

Whereas, Louisville police officers murdered Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020, and

Whereas, Atlanta police officers murdered Rayshard Brooks on June 12, 2020, and

Whereas, a Madison police officer murdered Tony Robinson on March 6, 2015, and

Whereas, these murders and hundreds more not listed here are all part of a long history of police in the United States killing and otherwise systematically abusing African-Americans, poor people, people with disabilities, people with mental illnesses, homeless people, people with substance use problems, gay and lesbian people, transgender people, sex workers, immigrants, and members of other marginalized groups, and,

Whereas, police in Madison and around the country have responded to protests with repeated acts of gratuitous violence, including tear-gassing crowds, driving their vehicles into groups of protestors, firing projectiles at unarmed people, and other tactics that use the resources of the state to suppress freedom of expression and endanger the public in an already volatile time, and,

Whereas, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway's use of curfews and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' authorization of National Guard support provided material support to these violent acts, and,

Whereas, Union Cab's Shared Values Policy states that "The safety and health of our members and the public are of paramount importance," and that "Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others," and

Whereas, Union Cab serves on a daily basis members of communities that have historically suffered disproportionate violence and injustice at the hands of police and,

Whereas, cab companies frequently interact with the police and have a special responsibility to hold police accountable for unjust behavior and,

Whereas, Union Cab has a long history of seeking change through direct action and protests, including the initial strike that led to the cooperative's foundation; participation in the Act 10 protests of 2011; and policies that forbid Union Cab from crossing picket lines, and

Whereas, state violence is intertwined with the injustices of capitalism that worker cooperatives seek to counter and eliminate, and,

Whereas, the Union Cab Board of Directors voted on June 10, 2020 to direct the Education Committee to provide de-escalation training available to all members of the Cooperative,

Be it resolved that:

The Membership of Union Cab charges the Board of Directors, Standing and Special Committees, and Management to take steps that minimize the cooperative's material support for police and minimize member and community interaction with police. These should include, but are not limited to: De-escalation training, development of Standard Operating Procedures that detail alternatives to calling the police for all workers, annual audits of Union Cab's sensitivity training and other educational programs, annual reviews of the Union Cab Policy Code, and annual reviews of hiring materials.

The membership of Union Cab acknowledges that the Cooperative has played and continues to play a role in perpetuating systemic injustices.

The Membership of Union Cab of Madison Cooperative stands in solidarity with those protesting police violence and demanding justice, reform, accountability and/or police abolition in Madison and across the United States and the world.

The Membership of Union Cab of Madison Cooperative condemns the systemic injustices that characterize policing, prosecution, and incarceration in the United States.

The Membership of Union Cab of Madison Cooperative condemns the actions of officials who have enabled repressive attacks on protestors since May 25, including Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Acting Madison Police Department Chief of Police Victor Wahl, Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney, United States Attorney General William Barr, and United States President Donald Trump.

The Membership of Union Cab affirms that justice, human rights, and human life are more important than property.