



YouTube: [rileygraceroshong](https://www.youtube.com/rileygraceroshong) | Twitch: [rileygraceroshong](https://www.twitch.tv/rileygraceroshong) | Twitter: [@rileygroshong](https://twitter.com/rileygroshong) | Discord: discord.gg/rgr

1 ON THE NATURE OF whether police use of excessive force is an issue in the United States:
2 WHEREAS “[t]he feature distinguishing police from all other groups in society is their authority to apply coercive
3 force when circumstances call for it.”^[1]
4 WHEREAS according to the US Commission on Civil Rights, “police officers must operate with the highest
5 standards of professionalism and accountability.”^[2]
6 WHEREAS police in the US kill civilians at rates 5x higher than police in Canada, 40x higher than in Germany,
7 140x higher than in England and Wales, and kill more people than most developed democratic countries.^{[3][4][5]}
8 WHEREAS “many situations that provoke police to use undue force closely resemble . . . assaults by private
9 citizens” and “[i]n both cases, the force is exerted in quick anger against real or imagined aggression.”^[6]
10 WHEREAS cities with restrictive use of force policies are associated with fewer police killings.^{[7][8]}
11 WHEREAS levels of violent crime in US cities do not determine rates of police violence.^[9]
12 WHEREAS in 2020, while the majority of people killed by police were white, black people were 28% of those
13 killed by police despite being only 13% of the population.^{[10][11]}
14 WHEREAS general use of force research is unclear, current evidence shows that black people are 3x more likely
15 to be killed by police than white people despite being 1.3x more likely to be unarmed.^{[12][13][14][15][16][17][18]}
16 WHEREAS in 2013-20, police killed black people at higher rates than white people in 47/50 largest US cities.^[19]
17 WHEREAS “the various mechanisms through which police brutality may increase the death rates among the
18 Black community include physical injuries and deaths, psychological stress, racist public reactions, economic and
19 financial strain, and systematic disempowerment among the Black community.”^[20]
20 WHEREAS police generally defend killing unarmed suspects or using excessive force because “[c]ops who report
21 wrongdoing are routinely ostracized as ‘rats’ and denied promotions.”^{[21][22][23][24][25]}
22 WHEREAS 98.3% of killings by police from 2013-20 have not resulted in officers being charged with a crime.^[26]
23 WHEREAS higher levels of peer misconduct among police increases an officer's misconduct rate, and the norm
24 of rerouting offending police officers to new locations in the force exacerbates this issue.^{[27][28]}
25 WHEREAS giving police departments collective bargaining rights and unionization has led to higher levels of
26 violent police misconduct.^[29]
27 WHEREAS it is not unusual for officers to ignore improper conduct by their fellow officers, and it is not
28 uncommon for officers to recognize that others use more force than necessary when making an arrest.^{[30][31]}
29 WHEREAS there is evidence that although police officers who are most likely to have fired their weapons are
30 white men, evidence suggests that the causes for use of force against black people may be rather motivated by
31 institutional, organizational, and systemic causes.^{[32][33][34]}
32 THEREFORE, police use excessive force disproportionately against people of color, police are complicit in and
33 defend fellow officers' use of excessive force, and these issues require systemic solutions to resolve.

Sincerely,

Riley Grace Roshong