

## **Chabot College Divestment Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, Chabot College's Values statement on Integrity: Individual and Collective Responsibility states, “Developing responsible and compassionate community members with a sense of individual and social responsibility,” and “Adhering to the highest standards of ethics and public stewardship.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Chabot College Values statement on Innovation, Growth, and Sustainability, “Advocating for change geared towards a just, equitable, and sustainable world”; and

**WHEREAS**, Chabot College Values statement on Community, Inclusion, and Equity “Establishing equity and inclusivity in our campus culture, decision-making, policies, and practices”; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of “Defense” is the largest institutional consumer of fossil fuels in the world and a key contributor to climate change [1]; and

**WHEREAS**, our educational institution aims to advance our world through knowledge, cooperation, and social justice, not through war, violence, and destruction of people and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the apartheid state in South Africa in 1990 was partly brought to an end by divestment efforts of educational institutions, governments, and individual boycotts. Student and faculty movements in the San Francisco Bay Area, sparked the call to divest from entities in South Africa. This pressure from divestment, along with other economic pressures, contributed to ending apartheid in South Africa. Therefore, this form of protest has been proven to work to spark awareness and instigate reform; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chabot Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees values are stated to be: “**Integrity** - We function in an accountable and transparent manner while adhering to the highest professional standards”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Retirement Authority Board, with the Chabot Las Positas Community College District, makes significant contributions [2] in companies/entities, such as BlackRock, that invest in military technology; and

**WHEREAS**, BlackRock is an entity that is not aligned with our college values and makes significant investments against the best interests of our students:

- BlackRock’s investments in Russian state-owned companies have helped fund Russia's invasion of Ukraine [3]

- BlackRock is one of the largest shareholders in publicly traded gun manufacturing companies (including companies whose guns have been used in school shootings) [4]
- BlackRock continues to invest in Chinese companies with close ties to the Chinese government, which is undertaking a genocide of the Uyghur minority in Xinjiang, China [5]
- BlackRock holds shares in oil companies with ties to the Junta in Myanmar, which are engaging in ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people and human rights abuses against the citizens of Myanmar [6]
- BlackRock benefits from the Israeli military's killing of innocent civilians in Gaza and Lebanon [7]

**RESOLVED**, Chabot College is demanding transparency on how retirement funds are invested per the values of the Board of Trustees: and

**RESOLVED**, That the Las Positas College Academic Senate calls on the Retirement Authority Board with the Chabot Las Positas Community College District develops an Ethical Investment Policy; and

**RESOLVED**, That such policy should align with the values and ethics of Chabot and Las Positas Colleges with regards to the environment, social justice, and civic responsibility; and

**RESOLVED**, That the Retirement Authority Board should commit to publishing regular reports on investments, investment revenue, and account balances for public stakeholder inspection.

## CITATIONS

[1]

[https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2019/Summary\\_Pentagon%20Fuel%20Use%2C%20Climate%20Change%2C%20and%20the%20Costs%20of%20War%20%281%29.pdf](https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/files/cow/imce/papers/2019/Summary_Pentagon%20Fuel%20Use%2C%20Climate%20Change%2C%20and%20the%20Costs%20of%20War%20%281%29.pdf)

[2] <https://districtazure.clpccd.org/business/retirementboard/files/docs/2021-22-annual-report.pdf>

[3] <https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2022-04-05/blackrock-ploughed-uk-pension-funds-into-putins-war-chest/>

[4] <https://qz.com/2170128/blackrock-is-still-the-largest-shareholder-in-gun-stocks>

[5] <https://nlpc.org/featured-news/as-china-is-called-out-over-genocide-blackrock-sees-a-business-opportunity/>

[6] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/19/myanmar-investors-should-act-halt-funds-junta>

[7] <https://geopoliticeconomy.com/2024/07/07/blackrock-wall-street-banks-profit-israel-gaza-un/>

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**WHEREAS**, our educational institution aims to advance our world through knowledge, cooperation, and social justice, not through war, violence, and destruction of people and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the apartheid state in South Africa in 1990 was partly brought to an end by divestment efforts of educational institutions, governments, and individual boycotts. Student and faculty movements, ~~right here~~ in the ~~SF~~ San Francisco Bay Area, sparked the call to divest from entities in South Africa. This pressure from divestment, along with other economic pressures, contributed to ending apartheid in South Africa. Therefore, this form of protest has been proven to work to spark awareness and instigate reform; and

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**RESOLVED**, Chabot College is demanding transparency on how retirement funds are invested per the values of the Board of Trustees: ~~“Integrity—We function in an accountable and transparent manner while adhering to the highest professional standards”~~; and

~~**RESOLVED**, the Chabot College recommends that the Chabot Las Positas Community College District divest (withdraw all financial support from) corporations, investments, and entities financially benefiting from military and war in the US and abroad.~~

~~**RESOLVED**, That the Las Positas College Academic Senate calls on the Retirement Authority Board with the Chabot Las Positas Community College District develops an Ethical Investment Policy; and~~

~~**RESOLVED**, That such policy should align with the values and ethics of Chabot and Las Positas Colleges with regards to the environment, social justice, and civic responsibility; and~~

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