

13-0002-5104

JUL 23 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, 17 year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed in Sanford, Florida on February 2012 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer; and

WHEREAS, Zimmerman admitted he was responsible for shooting Martin, but maintained that Martin attacked him and his shooting was justified; and

WHEREAS, Florida has a so-called "Stand Your Ground" law, which allows an individual to use deadly force without first retreating if they feel their safety is threatened; and

WHEREAS, Zimmerman was tried for murder, but was found not guilty on July 13, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law played a significant part in Martin's untimely death and Zimmerman's acquittal; and

WHEREAS, this case raises serious questions about civil rights, as Zimmerman believed Martin was a possible criminal based on his appearance and followed him, leading to a deadly confrontation; and

WHEREAS, Zimmerman's slaying of Martin may have violated Martin's rights to freedom from harm and freedom of movement in a public space; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice has the authority to bring civil rights charges against Zimmerman for his violation of Martin's rights, if substantiated through an investigation, and the Department has stated it will investigate this matter and take any action it believes is justified; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should strongly support an investigation into this matter, as any possible violation of civil rights is serious and should be examined by the federal government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013 - 2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP and SUPPORT of legislation and/or administrative action which would request that the U.S. Department of Justice and the Attorney General conduct a thorough and objective investigation of possible civil rights abuses and violations related to the slaying of Trayvon Martin, including a review of how Florida's "Stand Your Ground" legislation may have contributed to Martins's death and upon the conclusion of the investigation of these matters take all legal actions that are justified to bring this case to a fair, legal and appropriate conclusion.

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PRESENTED BY Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY Silvan A. Cedillo
Paul Parks

[Signature]
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CITY OF LOS ANGELES