

# RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

**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 government 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**, tensions between the African American and Korean American communities were already heightened following the shooting death of Latasha Harlins at the hands of a Korean show owner; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 29, 1992, the trial of Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with assault and use of excessive force in connection with the arrest of Rodney King ended with the jury acquitting all four on the assault charge, and acquitting three and deadlocking for one officer on the excessive force charge, and following the announcement of the verdicts, the residents of Los Angeles, especially in the African American community, expressed outrage; and

**WHEREAS**, the riot involved looting and arson in the south and central parts of Los Angeles, and had a devastating impact on African American, Korean American, and Latino communities and business owners, and by May 4, 1992, 53 people had lost their lives, 2,400 were injured and 12,000 were arrested with an estimated \$1 billion in property damage from fires, theft, and vandalism having occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, in the ensuing 25 years, Los Angeles has rebuilt and grown into one of the most diverse major cities in the country, with over 220 languages spoken by residents, hailing from more than 140 countries, and the Los Angeles Police Department has undergone significant reforms and became a national model of constitutional policing; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 2015, Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr. and Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell co-authored, and Councilmembers David Ryu and Marqueece Harris-Dawson seconded, Council File No. 15-0840 on "City of Los Angeles Citizens / Engage in Conversations and Activities / Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, Diversity, Multiculturalism" which has led to the creation of the embRACE LA program under the direction of the City Council and Human Relations Commission, Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, embRACE LA is design to educate, engage and empower residents to champion equity, inclusion and justice in their own communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby declares SUPPORT for the Joint Statement of Unity to Commemorate 4/29/1992 dated April 2017 in Los Angeles, California.

APR 26 2017



# RESOLUTION

PRESENTED BY: *Herb J. Wesson*  
HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: *Joe C. P.*

**ORIGINAL**

## JOINT STATEMENT OF UNITY TO COMMEMORATE 4/29/1992

**Whereas**, on April 29, 1992, the trial of Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with assault and use of excessive force in connection with the arrest of Rodney King ended with the jury acquitting all four on the assault charge, and acquitting three and deadlocking for one officer on the excessive force charge;

**Whereas**, following the announcement of the verdicts, the residents of Los Angeles, especially in the African American community, expressed outrage;

**Whereas**, tensions between the African American and Korean American communities were already heightened following the trial of Soon Ja Du, a Korean American shop owner accused of shooting Latasha Harlins, an African American girl, in the back; the trial had resulted in a manslaughter conviction a few months earlier;

**Whereas**, these and other contributing factors, including decades of discrimination and neglect in the African American community and mutual cultural misunderstandings in the African American and Korean American communities, led to heightened tensions and a riot some described as an uprising;

**Whereas**, the riot involved looting and arson in the south and central parts of Los Angeles, and had a devastating impact on Korean American, Latino and African American communities and business owners;

**Whereas**, a delay in response and a breakdown in communication led to the declaration of a state of emergency early on the morning of April 30, 1992;

**Whereas**, by May 1, 1992, 30,000 uniformed personnel including police officers, deputy sheriffs, the California National Guard, U.S. Army soldiers, Marines and specially trained federal law-enforcement officers were mobilized;

**Whereas**, by May 4, 1992, 53 people had lost their lives, 2,400 were injured and 12,000 were arrested; and an estimated \$1 billion in property damage from fires, theft, and vandalism had occurred;

**Whereas**, all communities suffered profound loss; the Korean American community was greatly impacted, with approximately half of the \$1 billion in losses;

**Whereas**, in the ensuing 25 years, Los Angeles has rebuilt and grown into one of the most diverse major cities in the country, with over 220 languages spoken by residents, hailing from more than 140 countries, and the Los Angeles Police Department has undergone significant reforms and became a national model of constitutional policing;

**Whereas**, in the ensuing 25 years, the Anti-Defamation League, Korean American Coalition, the Los Angeles Urban League and the Los Angeles Police Department have worked individually and in coalition to build bridges of understanding among our many diverse communities, and to reduce hatred and stereotyping of the communities we represent;

**Whereas**, in 2012, the Anti-Defamation League brought together a similar group to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, in the past five years, events in our communities, across our country, on our campuses, and in our political landscape continue to rend us apart;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved:** We the undersigned join together, to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LA Riots, in the following Statement of Unity:

1. We recognize the tragedy of April 29, 1992, and honor those innocent victims who lost their lives as we pay respect to their families.
2. We recognize those who lost their property and livelihoods, honoring their efforts to rebuild and regenerate.
3. We recognize the work our respective civic organizations have done to rebuild and heal our community in the last 25 years.
4. We recognize the work of the City of Los Angeles and LAPD to educate, reform and hold accountable their work force, to work collaboratively with civic organizations, and to implement community policing strategies all to the betterment and reduction of crime in Los Angeles.
5. We recognize the growing socio-economic disparity in our country continues to contribute to the polarization of our communities.
6. We will continue to work together to create a harmonious community, recognizing that like the nation, we are a community of immigrants, welcoming to all.
7. We will stand up to the bigots, the haters and the xenophobes in our community.
8. We will denounce hate crimes of all kinds because a hate crime targeting one segment of our community does harm to us all.
9. We the community and law enforcement will work together with mutual respect and accountability to continue to promote high standards of community policing, including reporting and assisting in the fight against hate and extremism.
10. We pledge that our children will understand that diversity in our community and on our campuses is a strength and a source of pride, not a cause for hatred and division.

Dated April 2017  
Los Angeles, California

Authors:



Amanda Susskind, Anti-Defamation League



Joon Bang, Korean American Coalition



Chief Charlie Beck, Los Angeles Police Department



Nolan V. Rollins, Los Angeles Urban League

Supporters:



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Stewart Kwoh, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles



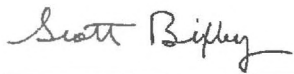
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Beverly Hills Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli



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Angelica Salas, CHIRLA



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Culver City Police Chief Scott Bixby



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Rick Zbur, Equality California



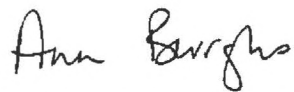
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Yey Coronel, Filipino American Services Group Inc.



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Inglewood Police Chief Mark Fronterotta



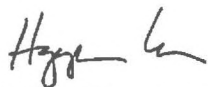
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Ann Burroughs, Japanese American National Museum



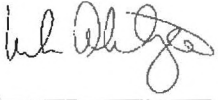
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Asher Gellis, JQ International



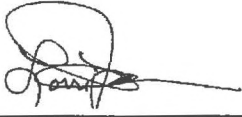
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Hyepin Im, Korean Churches for Community Development



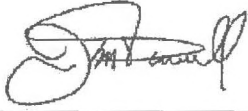
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Linda Akutagawa, Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.



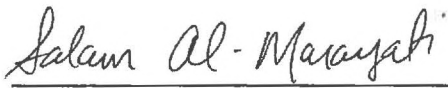
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Lorri L. Jean, Los Angeles LGBT Center




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Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell



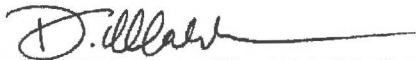
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Salam Al-Marayati, MPAC



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Arturo Vargas, NALEO



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Delia de la Vara, National Council of La Raza



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Jennifer Chau, OCA-GLA



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Torrance Police Chief Mark Matsuda