

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 92

Introduced by Assembly Member Gipson
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Burke, Holden, Jones-Sawyer,
McCarty, Ridley-Thomas, Thurmond, and Weber)
(Coauthors: Senators Hall and Mitchell)

June 25, 2015

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 92—Relative to the 50th Anniversary of the Watts Revolt.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 92, as introduced, Gipson. 50th Anniversary of the Watts Revolt. This measure would commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Watts Revolt.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Economic equality is a critical component of
2 community well-being and the maintenance of social peace; and
3 WHEREAS, In 1964, there were a total of 8 revolts across
4 African American communities, including Chicago, New York
5 City, Philadelphia, and Jersey City, that came as a result of racial
6 tension and economic deprivation; and
7 WHEREAS, August 2015, will mark the 50th Anniversary of
8 the Watts Revolt (also known as the “Watts Rebellion”), which
9 began on August 11, 1965, when Marquette Frye and his brother
10 were stopped by police under a drunk driving suspicion, which
11 resulted in a hostile confrontation between the Frye family and
12 police officers on the scene; and

1 WHEREAS, The Watts Revolt was the culmination of historic
2 and systemic racial and economic injustice that included frustration
3 with the passage of Proposition 14 of 1964 in California, which
4 sought to nullify the state's fair housing law; and

5 WHEREAS, This historic event, which took place in the greater
6 Watts neighborhoods of Los Angeles and the City of Compton,
7 involved six days of protest resulting in 34 deaths, 1,032 injuries,
8 and over \$40 million worth of property damage; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 31,000 and 35,000 adults participated in
10 the revolt over the course of six days. At that time, it was the most
11 severe uprising in the history of the South Los Angeles region;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Watts Revolt is an important part of Los
14 Angeles history and it is critical that we mark the 50th anniversary
15 of this event appropriately; and

16 WHEREAS, The McCone Commission, Chaired by John
17 McCone, was established by Governor Edmund G. Brown to
18 investigate the Watts Revolt and identify solutions to ensure that
19 such an issue never reoccurred; and

20 WHEREAS, The results of the investigation found that the Watts
21 Revolt was a result of discrimination in employment, education,
22 housing, and law enforcement; and

23 WHEREAS, The aforementioned issues persist within these
24 communities today; now, therefore, be it,

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commemorates the 50th
27 Anniversary of the Watts Revolt, one of the largest uprisings in
28 20th century America; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature urges the development
30 of public and private solutions to statewide and local disparities
31 on the basis of legal and institutional racism in areas, including,
32 but not limited to, education, employment, housing, and law
33 enforcement; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
35 City of Los Angeles and the City of Compton, which are
36 encouraged to disseminate copies to local, community, and
37 statewide organizations throughout California; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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