

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 92

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**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

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

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 92, as amended, 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, *healthcare*, and law enforcement; and

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

25 *WHEREAS, When discussing the topic of social unrest in*  
26 *America, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "I would be the first*  
27 *to say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive,*  
28 *nonviolence as the most potent weapon... But it would be morally*  
29 *irresponsible of me to do that without, at the same time,*  
30 *condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our*  
31 *society"; now, therefore, be it*

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
33 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature commemorates the 50th*  
34 *Anniversary of the Watts Revolt, one of the largest uprisings in*  
35 *20th century America; and be it further*

36 *Resolved, That the California Legislature urges the development*  
37 *of public and private solutions to statewide and local disparities*  
38 *on the basis of legal and institutional racism in areas, including,*  
39 *but not limited to, education, employment, housing, *healthcare*,*  
40 *and law enforcement; and be it further*

1     RESOLVED, *That the California Legislature pays tribute to*  
2 *the establishment of institutions that sought to remedy the key*  
3 *challenges in the South Los Angeles community, including*  
4 *California State University, Dominguez Hills, Charles R. Drew*  
5 *Postgraduate Medical School (currently Charles R. Drew*  
6 *University of Medicine and Science), the Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
7 *General Hospital (the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center*  
8 *and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital); and be it further*

9     RESOLVED, *That the California Legislature celebrates the*  
10 *organization of local, peaceful actions to redirect community*  
11 *energy in positive and constructive ways, including the*  
12 *development of the Watts Summer Festival, Watts Summer Games,*  
13 *Watts Christmas Parade, and Watts Labor Community Action*  
14 *Committee; and be it further*

15     RESOLVED, *That the California Legislature celebrates the*  
16 *organization of local, peaceful actions to redirect community*  
17 *energy in positive and constructive ways, including the*  
18 *development of the Watts Summer Festival, Watts Summer Games,*  
19 *and Watts Christmas Parade; and be it further*

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

24     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
25 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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27  
28     CORRECTIONS:                     \_\_\_\_\_

29     Text—Pages 2 and 3.  
30   \_\_\_\_\_