

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 13, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

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 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~~, *communities in various cities*,
- 5 including Chicago, ~~New York City~~, *New York*, Philadelphia, and
- 6 Jersey City, that ~~came~~ *occurred* as a result of racial tension and
- 7 economic deprivation; and
- 8 WHEREAS, August 2015, will mark the 50th Anniversary of
- 9 the Watts Revolt (also known as the “Watts Rebellion”), which
- 10 began on August 11, 1965, when Marquette Frye and his brother

1 were stopped by police ~~under a drunk driving suspicion~~, *on a*
2 *suspicion of drunk driving*, which resulted in a hostile confrontation
3 between the Frye family and police officers on the scene; and

4 WHEREAS, The Watts Revolt was ~~the culmination of historie~~
5 ~~and a reaction to a long history of~~ systemic racial and economic
6 ~~injustice that included~~ *injustice, including* frustration with the
7 passage of Proposition 14 of 1964 in California, which sought to
8 nullify the state's fair housing law; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Between 31,000 and 35,000 adults participated in
14 the revolt over the course of six days. At that time, it was the most
15 ~~severe~~ *significant* uprising in the history of the South Los Angeles
16 region; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The McCone Commission, Chaired by John
21 McCone, was established by Governor Edmund G. Brown to
22 investigate the Watts Revolt and identify solutions to ensure that
23 ~~such an issue~~ *this incident* never reoccurred; and

24 WHEREAS, The results of the investigation found that the Watts
25 Revolt was a result of discrimination in employment, education,
26 housing, healthcare, and law enforcement; and

27 WHEREAS, The aforementioned issues persist within these
28 communities today; and

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

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commemorates the 50th
38 Anniversary of the Watts Revolt, one of the largest uprisings in
39 20th century America; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature urges the development
2 of public and private solutions to statewide and local disparities
3 on the basis of legal and institutional racism in areas, including,
4 but not limited to, education, employment, housing, healthcare,
5 and law enforcement; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature pays tribute to the
7 establishment of institutions that sought to remedy the key
8 challenges in the South Los Angeles community, including *the*
9 *Watts Labor Community Action Committee*, California State
10 University, Dominguez Hills, Charles R. Drew Postgraduate
11 Medical School (currently Charles R. Drew University of Medicine
12 and Science), the Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital ~~(the~~
13 ~~(currently the~~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center and Martin
14 Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital); 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 ~~Watts Christmas Parade, and Watts Labor Community Action~~
20 ~~Committee; and be it further~~

21 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature celebrates the
22 organization of local, peaceful actions to redirect community
23 energy in positive and constructive ways, including the
24 development of the Watts Summer Festival, Watts Summer Games,
25 and Watts Christmas Parade; and be it further

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

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