

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 20, 2015

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~~ Weber, Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Roger Hernández, Irwin, Levine, Lopez, Low, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Mark Stone, Ting, Williams, and Wood)

(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

1 WHEREAS, In 1964, there were a total of 8 revolts across
2 African American communities in various cities, including
3 Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Jersey City, that occurred
4 as a result of racial tension and economic deprivation; and

5 WHEREAS, August 2015, will mark the 50th Anniversary of
6 the Watts Revolt (also known as the “Watts Rebellion”), which
7 began on August 11, 1965, when Marquette Frye and his brother
8 were stopped by police on a suspicion of drunk driving, which
9 resulted in a hostile confrontation between the Frye family and
10 police officers on the scene; and

11 WHEREAS, The Watts Revolt was a reaction to a long history
12 of systemic racial and economic injustice, including frustration
13 with the passage of Proposition 14 of 1964 in California, which
14 sought to nullify the state’s fair housing law; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Between 31,000 and 35,000 adults participated in
20 the revolt over the course of six days. At that time, it was the most
21 significant uprising in the history of the South Los Angeles region;
22 and

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

26 WHEREAS, The McCone Commission, Chaired by John
27 McCone, was established by Governor Edmund G. Brown to
28 investigate the Watts Revolt and identify solutions to ensure that
29 this incident never reoccurred; and

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

33 WHEREAS, The aforementioned issues persist within these
34 communities today; and

35 WHEREAS, When discussing the topic of social unrest in
36 America, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “I would be the first to
37 say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive,
38 nonviolence as the most potent weapon... But it would be morally
39 irresponsible of me to do that without, at the same time,

1 condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our
2 society”; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature commemorates the 50th
5 Anniversary of the Watts Revolt, one of the largest uprisings in
6 20th century America; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature urges the development
8 of public and private solutions to statewide and local disparities
9 on the basis of legal and institutional racism in areas, including,
10 but not limited to, education, employment, housing, healthcare,
11 and law enforcement; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the California Legislature pays tribute to the
13 establishment of institutions that sought to remedy the key
14 challenges in the South Los Angeles community, including the
15 Watts Labor Community Action Committee, California State
16 University, Dominguez Hills, Charles R. Drew Postgraduate
17 Medical School (currently Charles R. Drew University of Medicine
18 and Science), the Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital
19 (currently the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center and Martin
20 Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital); 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.