

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2017

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2017–18 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 32

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

April 19, 2017

House Resolution No. 32—Relative to the 25th anniversary of the Los Angeles civil unrest.

1 WHEREAS, April 29, ~~1992~~, 2017, marks the 25th anniversary
2 of a controversial verdict that exonerated four policemen, which
3 ~~sparked the Los Angeles civil unrest~~; *culminated in civil unrest in*
4 *Los Angeles, California*; and

5 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles civil unrest, *in which* ~~killed~~ 53
6 people *died* and ~~injured 2,300 others~~; ~~exposed others were injured~~,
7 *exacerbated* racial tensions, economic inequities, and institutional
8 dysfunction; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Thomas Bradley *and other leaders*
10 empowered an investigatory ~~body~~ *commission* chaired by *then*
11 *attorney Warren Christopher*, ~~who Christopher~~ (*who* later became
12 ~~the United States U.S. Secretary of State, and State~~), *also included*
13 ~~concerned citizens~~; *citizens*, and *became known as the Christopher*
14 *Commission*; and

15 WHEREAS, The Christopher Commission was established in
16 the wake of the Rodney King beating to conduct a ~~full investigation~~
17 ~~into~~ *and fair examination of* the structure and operations of the
18 Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); and

19 WHEREAS, The Christopher Commission Report conducted a
20 study of the LAPD and found extensive cases of physical abuse
21 by LAPD officers; and

1 WHEREAS, The Christopher Commission Report also noted
2 computer and radio transmissions between officers that reflected
3 degrading language used to respond to 911 calls involving African
4 Americans; *about people of color*; and

5 WHEREAS, The Christopher Commission Report further noted
6 that an LAPD survey of 960 officers found that approximately
7 one-quarter of 650 officers responding agreed that “racial bias
8 (prejudice) on the part of officers toward minority citizens currently
9 exists and contributes to a negative interaction between the police
10 and the community.” More than one-quarter of the poll’s
11 respondents agreed that “an officer’s prejudice towards the
12 suspect’s race may lead to the use of excessive force”; and

13 WHEREAS, Following the Los Angeles civil unrest and after
14 the ~~mass exposure of the corruption scandal~~ in the Rampart division
15 of the LAPD, the ~~LAPD department~~ entered into a federal consent
16 decree to eliminate the LAPD’s patterns of engaging in excessive
17 force, false arrests, and unreasonable searches and seizures; and

18 WHEREAS, Race relations in Los Angeles have improved since
19 1992 according to a 2012 survey conducted by the Center for the
20 Study of Los Angeles at Loyola Marymount University; and

21 WHEREAS, Some studies have suggested that the Los Angeles
22 civil unrest in 1992 ultimately cost the city nearly \$4 billion in
23 taxable sales and over \$125 million in direct sales tax revenue,
24 which was in addition to \$1 billion in property damage; and

25 WHEREAS, South Los Angeles remains economically
26 disadvantaged relative to other communities in Los Angeles, with
27 high unemployment and poverty, poor health outcomes, and crime
28 rates that are higher relative to other neighborhoods; now, therefore,
29 be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
31 *Assembly seeks to acknowledge the 25th anniversary of the Los*
32 *Angeles civil unrest as a dark chapter in California’s history that*
33 *catalyzed significant reforms to police-community relations; must*
34 *not be forgotten as we strive for improved relations between*
35 *communities, in particular communities of color, and law*
36 *enforcement; and be it further*

37 ~~*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*~~
38 ~~*Assembly urges the development of public and private solutions*~~
39 ~~*to address disparities in the following areas: education,*~~

1 employment, housing, health care, and working toward an impartial
2 administration of justice; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief *Clerk* of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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