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APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:


CITY ATTORNEY

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 80888 C. M. S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER: LARRY E. REID

Resolution For The City Council of Oakland, California to Go On Record Opposing the Unfair Treatment By The Criminal Justice System in Jena, Louisiana Against, the “Jena Six” Youths

WHEREAS, In September of 2006, in Jena, Louisiana, a group of African American students sat under “the white tree” in the Jena High School yard after getting permission to do so from the school administration, and on the following day, three nooses were hung from the tree, and;

WHEREAS, Throughout the fall semester, incidents occurred, including an arson attack which damaged a school building, and several assaults on African-American students in which the attackers were not charged, and;

WHEREAS, In December, white students taunted an African-American student, who had been assaulted over the weekend, and a fight broke out in the school, during which one of the white students was assaulted and treated in the hospital, but able to appear at a social function that night, and;

WHEREAS Six African- American students were immediately arrested, charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit second-degree murder, expelled from school with charges that could bring them 20-100 years in prison, and;

WHEREAS, These six students, Bryant Purvis, Jesse Beard, Carwin Jones, Theodore Shaw, Robert Bailey, Jr., and Mychal Bell have become known as the “Jena Six”, and;

WHEREAS, In June, an all white jury convicted the first defendant, Mychal Bell, of “lesser” charges of aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated battery in a trial where the prosecutor called only white witnesses, some of whom said they did not see anything and Bell’s Public Defender called no witnesses and offered no evidence, and;

WHEREAS, The State Appeals Court reversed the remaining conviction against Mr. Bell, saying the charges belonged in Juvenile Court, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell, a promising athlete at the high school where the noose hanging

incident occurred, had been in jail since his arrest on December 4, 2006, until recently released on bail, and;

WHEREAS, This frightening example of racism calls to mind an earlier time in the United States in which segregation and the "lynching" of African-Americans was common practice, and;

WHEREAS, Part of the reason these practices were brought to an end was the courage demonstrated by those who stood up in their own defense and the attention from others around the country, and;

WHEREAS, The young men charged with these crimes and their families have been eloquent in their own defenses and calling for justice, and;

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther, Jr. stated that "justice" denied anywhere is justice denied everywhere, so be it;

RESOLVED: that the City Council of Oakland, California expresses its dissatisfaction and concerns with the criminal justice system and the unfair and one sided practices that are meted upon the African-American community in Jena, Louisiana through the use of all white-juries, excessive sentencing and heavy handed tactics being displayed by the Chief Prosecutor, District Attorney Reed Walters, of the City, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the members of the City Council of Oakland, California are on record with the passage of this resolution as supporting the six young men and their families in Jena, Louisiana in their pursuit of justice, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Office of the Clerk for the City of Oakland is directed to send (fax or Priority mail) a suitably engrossed copy of this Resolution to the families of the "Jena Six" young men, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, State Attorney General J. Reed Walters, District Attorney of LaSalle Parish, the Mayor and City Council of Jena, Louisiana, on behalf of the City Council Members of the Oakland, California.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, OCT 16 2007, 2007

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

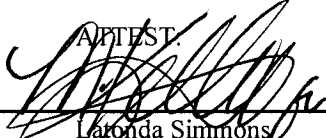
AYES- ~~BRUNNER~~, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, KERMIGHAN. AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE - 7

NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

Excused- Brooks - 1

APTEST

Laronda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the
of the City of Oakland,
California