

1 [Urging the Department of Justice to Expedite its Investigations Related to the Events in  
2 Ferguson, Missouri]

3 **Resolution urging the Department of Justice to expedite its investigation of the fatal**  
4 **shooting of Michael Brown, to initiate reforms of the Ferguson Police Department and**  
5 **St. Louis County Police Department, and to investigate the St. Louis County Grand Jury**  
6 **process.**

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8 WHEREAS, The population of Ferguson is 63% black, while only three out of fifty-three  
9 officers on the Ferguson Police Department are black; and

10 WHEREAS, On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, was shot  
11 and killed by Darren Wilson, a white police officer, in Ferguson, Missouri; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Brown’s body was left lying in the street for four and a half hours after  
13 he was killed, which caused additional grief for his family and heightened anger among  
14 community members in Ferguson; and

15 WHEREAS, Multiple eye witnesses testified that Mr. Brown had his hands up when he  
16 was shot, which contributed to community anger and unrest, and led to the phrase, “hands up,  
17 don’t shoot,” becoming a rallying cry for protesters; and

18 WHEREAS, The killing of Michael Brown led to passionate protests from many people  
19 in Ferguson who demanded an investigation and airing of grievances of racial profiling and  
20 police brutality from the Ferguson Police Department and St. Louis County Police  
21 Department; and

22 WHEREAS, Local and state law enforcement responded to the protests with an  
23 overwhelming show of force, including military-grade weapons and equipment; and

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1           WHEREAS, The protracted, violent conflicts between protesters and law enforcement  
2 have galvanized concerns nationwide about police brutality, police militarization, and racial  
3 inequality in the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, A number of protesters in Ferguson filed lawsuits alleging law enforcement  
5 officers violated civil rights and used excessive force; and

6           WHEREAS, Several members of the media were arrested during the protests, and the  
7 Associated Press reported that the St. Louis County Police Department obtained a Temporary  
8 Flight Restriction over Ferguson for twelve days for the express purpose of restricting  
9 coverage from media helicopters; and

10           WHEREAS, Instead of deciding on whether to press charges against Darren Wilson,  
11 St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCullough referred the decision to the St. Louis County  
12 Grand Jury; and

13           WHEREAS, On November 24, 2014, Mr. McCullough announced that the Grand Jury  
14 had decided to not file criminal charges against Mr. Wilson; and

15           WHEREAS, The sweeping scope of the Grand Jury's review of the case, including  
16 seventy hours of testimony from approximately sixty witness and thousands of pages of  
17 documents, has been called highly unusual; and

18           WHEREAS, Questions have been raised about a number of inconsistencies in  
19 witnesses' accounts, and about apparently lax or unorthodox forensic practices in the  
20 investigation of the incident; and

21           WHEREAS, The Grand Jury transcripts show that multiple eye witnesses disagreed  
22 with each other, and with the testimony of Mr. Wilson, about important details of the  
23 confrontation between Mr. Brown and Mr. Wilson; and

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1           WHEREAS, A medical examiner testified that he did not take any photographs  
2 because the battery in his camera died, and that he did not take any measurements of the  
3 crime scene because he stated, “it was self-explanatory what happened,” and

4           WHEREAS, After the shooting, Mr. Wilson was allowed to transport himself to the  
5 police station where he washed blood off his hands without them being photographed, and he  
6 was allowed to package his own service revolver as evidence; and

7           WHEREAS, Officers who interviewed Mr. Wilson after the shooting failed to tape record  
8 the interviews; and

9           WHEREAS, These questions about the Grand Jury process have led to many  
10 objections to the decision to not press charges against Mr. Wilson and triggered a new wave  
11 of protests in Ferguson and in cities across the country; now, therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors extends its deepest condolences to the  
13 family of Michael Brown; and, be it

14           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
15 Justice to expedite its criminal civil rights investigation into the circumstances of the fatal  
16 shooting of Michael Brown; and, be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
18 Justice to expedite its *civil pattern or practice investigation* of the Ferguson Police Department  
19 and its *Collaborative Reform Technical Assistance process* with the St. Louis County Police  
20 Department; and, be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
22 Justice to ensure that these actions lead to the Ferguson Police Department and St. Louis  
23 County Police Department revising their use-of-force policies, adopting a process for citizen  
24 oversight of officer-involved shootings and allegations of misconduct, and ceasing their use of  
25 military-style equipment; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the Department of  
2 Justice to conduct an investigation into the St. Louis County Grand Jury process.

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