File	No.	141234	
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Committee	Item No	
<b>Board Item</b>	No.	<i>50</i> .

## **COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Committee: Board of Su	pervisors Meeting	Date December 9, 2014
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Completed Completed	by:John Carroll by:	Date December 4, 2014 Date

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[Urging the Department of Justice to Expedite its Investigations Related to the Events in Ferguson, Missouril

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Print Form

## **Introduction Form**

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):	Time stamp or meeting date			
☐ 1. For reference to Committee.				
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.  2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.				
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.	5 7 7			
4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor	inquires"			
5. City Attorney request.	•			
6. Call File No. from Committee.				
7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).				
8. Substitute Legislation File No.				
9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).				
☐ 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.				
11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on				
Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following Small Business Commission	<del>-</del>			
☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commis	sion			
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperati	ve			
ponsor(s):				
Supervisor John Avalos				
Subject:				
Resolution - Urging the Department of Justice to expedite its investigation of the fatal shooting initiate reforms of the Ferguson Police Department and St. Louis County Police Department, ar St. Louis County Grand Jury				
The text is listed below or attached:				

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:	All
· · ¬	

or Clerk's Use Only: