

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 13-0116R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Branch, Curran, Clarke, Scott, Middleton, Mosby, Holton,
Welch, Stokes, Henry

Introduced and read first time: August 12, 2013

Assigned to: Public Safety Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 In Support of a Federal Indictment of George Zimmerman

3 FOR the purpose of supporting the efforts of the United States Justice Department to determine if
4 the killing of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman constituted a violation of Federally
5 guaranteed civil rights, and urging the Department to swiftly move for an indictment of
6 Zimmerman on Federal civil rights charges if its investigation finds such charges to be
7 warranted.

8 **WHEREAS**, 17 year old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed in Sanford, Florida in February
9 2012 by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer.

10 **WHEREAS**, Zimmerman admitted he was responsible for shooting Martin, but maintained that
11 Martin attacked him and his shooting was justified.

12 **WHEREAS**, Zimmerman was tried for murder, but was found not guilty on July 13, 2013.

13 **WHEREAS**, this case raises questions about civil rights, as Zimmerman believed Martin was a
14 possible criminal based on his appearance and followed him, leading to a deadly confrontation.

15 **WHEREAS**, Zimmerman's slaying of Martin may have violated Martin's rights to freedom from
16 harm and freedom of movement in a public space.

17 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Justice has the authority to bring civil rights charges against
18 Zimmerman for his violation of Martin's rights, if substantiated through an investigation, and the
19 Department has stated that it will investigate this matter and take any action it believes is justified.

20 **WHEREAS**, the City of Baltimore should strongly support an investigation into this matter, as
21 any possible violation of civil rights is serious and should be examined by the Federal
22 government.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the Council
2 supports the efforts of the United States Justice Department to determine if the killing of Trayvon
3 Martin by George Zimmerman constituted a violation of Federally guaranteed civil rights, and
4 urges the Department to swiftly move for an indictment of Zimmerman on Federal civil rights
5 charges if its investigation finds such charges to be warranted.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 Attorney General of the United States, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.