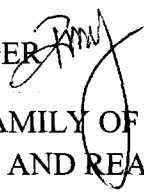


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 16, 2012

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FAMILY OF TRAYVON MARTIN, DENOUNCING RACIAL PROFILING AND REAFFIRMING ALEXANDRIA'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF ALL

**ISSUE:** Resolution proposed by the Alexandria Human Rights Commission supporting the family of Trayvon Martin, denouncing racial profiling and reaffirming the City's commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve the attached resolution.

**DISCUSSION:** Members of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, during the Commission's April meeting, affirmed support for local law enforcement, but expressed outrage at the City of Sanford's police department's response to the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, which was to invoke Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law. Commission members questioned the application of such a law in this context and discussed the need to address issues of racial profiling and vigilantism both locally and nationally. The Commission unanimously endorsed the submission of a resolution to the City Manager for consideration and presentation to City Council.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution

**STAFF:**  
 Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager  
 Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director, Office of Human Rights

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

Supporting the family of Trayvon Martin, denouncing racial profiling and reaffirming the City's commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has been on the forefront of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all, as evident in the passage of its Human Rights Ordinance, among the first in the nation, and in the creation of the Human Rights Commission in 1975, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission recognizes that acts of racial discrimination that occur anywhere are unsettling to all communities and that the elimination of injustice transcends geographical borders, and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin of Miami Gardens, Florida, was tragically killed for apparently no other reason than being Black and wearing apparel that his assailant found objectionable, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission expressed outrage at the City of Sanford's police department's response to the shooting, which was to invoke Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission questions the "Stand Your Ground" law as applied in this context, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission affirms that, in the criminal justice system, police and prosecutors must properly balance the rights of victims with the rights of the accused, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Trayvon Martin killing, public outrage spread across the Nation, among all races, eliciting rallies of protest in various cities, including the City of Alexandria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

1. Supports the family of Trayvon Martin and their fight for justice;
2. Denounces racial profiling and vigilantism, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all, without distinction as to race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status or sexual orientation, regardless of characterization;

3. Rejects in principle “Stand Your Ground” laws; and
4. Reaffirms that the pursuit of justice and equality must never be taken for granted and is a universal human right.

Adopted: May 22, 2012

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

16  
5-22-12

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 22, 2012  
**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FAMILY OF TRAYVON MARTIN,  
DENOUNCING RACIAL PROFILING AND REAFFIRMING  
ALEXANDRIA'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING AND PROTECTING THE  
RIGHTS OF ALL

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**ISSUE:** Resolution proposed by the Alexandria Human Rights Commission supporting the family of Trayvon Martin, denouncing racial profiling and reaffirming the City's commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council approve the attached resolution.

**DISCUSSION:** Members of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, during the Commission's April meeting, affirmed support for local law enforcement, but expressed outrage at the City of Sanford's police department's response to the shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, which was to invoke Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law. Commission members questioned the application of such a law in this context and discussed the need to address issues of racial profiling and vigilantism both locally and nationally. The Commission unanimously endorsed the submission of a resolution to the City Manager for consideration and presentation to City Council.

**ATTACHMENT:** Resolution

**STAFF:**  
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager  
Jean Kelleher Niebauer, Director, Office of Human Rights

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

*Denouncing the profiling of classes of persons protected under local and federal civil rights statutes and reaffirming the City's commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all*

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has been on the forefront of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all, as evident in the passage of its Human Rights Ordinance, among the first in the nation, and in the creation of the Human Rights Commission in 1975, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission recognizes that acts of discrimination that occur anywhere are unsettling to communities-at-large all around the world and that the elimination of injustice transcends geographical borders, and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin of Miami Gardens, Florida, was tragically killed in a gated community while he was residing in Sanford, Florida, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission remains outraged at the preliminary response of the Sanford, Florida Police Department to George Zimmerman shooting Trayvon Martin, particularly applying Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law and as a result, allowing Mr. Zimmerman to go free rather than be arrested and remain in police custody on the night of Mr. Martin's death, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission joins others around the world in questioning the applicability of the "Stand Your Ground" law in the case of the State of Florida versus George Zimmerman, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission affirms that, in the criminal justice system, police and prosecutors, as officers of the court have an affirmative obligation to properly balance the rights of victims with the rights of the accused, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Trayvon Martin killing, public outrage spread across the Nation, among all races, eliciting rallies of protest in various cities, including the City of Alexandria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

1. Supports the fair and proper administration of justice as relates to the death of Trayvon Martin; and
2. Denounces profiling of and vigilantism against any and all federally protected classes under civil rights laws and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all, without distinction as to race, color, age, sex, religion, disability,

ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status or sexual orientation, regardless of characterization; and

3. Prays that the appropriate authorities in the State of Florida properly limit the application of its "Stand Your Ground" law, to the extent that they find that unreasonable provocation by one claiming self-defense pursuant to "Stand Your Ground" waives the same if s/he is the preliminary aggressor in what turns out to be a fatality; and
4. Reaffirms that the pursuit of justice and equality must never be taken for granted and is a universal human right as set forth in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Adopted: May 22, 2012

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

16  
5-22-12

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Scott Gordon <scott.gordon22301@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 11, 2012 4:32 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Alexandria Human Rights Commission and Trayvon Martin Resolution  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**  
Time: [Fri May 11, 2012 16:31:32] Message ID: [39384]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Scott  
**Last Name:** Gordon  
**Street Address:** 12 West Uhler Avenue  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** (571) 970-6956  
**Email Address:** [scott.gordon22301@gmail.com](mailto:scott.gordon22301@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Alexandria Human Rights Commission and Trayvon Martin Resolution  
Regarding the Alexandria Human Rights Commission and Trayvon Martin  
Resolution:  
To The Honorable Mayor Euille and All Honored  
Councilmembers:  
I can appreciate the Alexandria Human Rights Commission  
discussing this case as a means to fine tune  
their knowledge base to help  
them assess future local issues but, the thought of the Alexandria HRC  
**Comments:** drafting any unofficial or official resolution and to defend the Martin  
family is tantamount to gross  
negligence and is a unilateral, uneducated  
and unsupported decision.  
While I'm sure the HRC is comprised of highly  
skilled and extremely loyal Alexandrians, they have in no  
way been  
afforded the evidence that will be presented at trial and, I'm assuming  
have had no personal  
contact with either George Zimmerman or the Martin

Family.

Drafting such a resolution as an official City Commission puts

the integrity of Alexandria and the integrity  
of the HRC at serious

risk.

Our City Council and City Attorney must act expeditiously to put a

stop to this. Drafting such a resolution  
without any first hand knowledge

is like claiming a dog is mean because it happens to be a Pit-Bull.

Without every ounce of trial evidence, the actions of the HRC are

simply nonsensical and highly inappropriate.

Sincerely,  
Scott Gordon



16  
5-22-12

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Micheline Eyraud <michye00@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 12, 2012 3:38 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Human Relations Committee  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**

**Time:** [Sat May 12, 2012 03:38:00] **Message ID:** [39401]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Micheline  
**Last Name:** Eyraud  
**Street Address:** 2181 Jamieson Ave #509  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703 567-8896  
**Email Address:** [michye00@hotmail.com](mailto:michye00@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Human Relations Committee

It was the appropriate thing to do to table the Human Relations Committee proclamation regarding the Trayvon Martin incident. This is totally out of the scope of your jurisdiction -- the Council is elected to work for the betterment of Alexandria, not to be the arbiter of government action in this country or the world. What value does the Human Relations Committee add to Alexandria??? What good have they ever accomplished? Why do we

**Comments:** waste money paying these people to snoop around getting into other peoples business? This is a free country in case you didn't know that and people are free to think and speak as they wish without worrying about retribution from the Thought Police. This function is more appropriate for a totalitarian state rather than our democratic country. these people need to mind their own business == the legal system in Florida is capable of dealing with the Trayvon Martin case and nothing you do or say will change anything. and Alexandria needs to get rid of a useless bureaucracy.

Comparison Krupicka 5-22-12  
version w/ Hughes version

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

~~Denouncing the profiling of classes of persons protected under local and federal civil rights statutes~~  
Supporting the family of Trayvon Martin, denouncing racial profiling and reaffirming the City's commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all

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1 WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has been on the forefront of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights for all, as evident in the passage of its Human Rights Ordinance, among the first in the nation, and in the creation of the Human Rights Commission in 1975, and

2 WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission recognizes that acts of racial discrimination that occur anywhere are unsettling to all communities-at-large all around the world and that the elimination of injustice transcends geographical borders, and

3 WHEREAS, on February 26, 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin of Miami Gardens, Florida, was tragically killed in a gated community while he was residing in Sanford, Florida, reminding us all of the risks of Stand Your Ground laws and Vigilantism and

4 WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission remains outraged has expressed outrage at the preliminary response application of the Sanford, Florida Police Department to George Zimmerman shooting Trayvon Martin, particularly applying Florida's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law and as a result, allowing Mr. Zimmerman to go free rather than be arrested and remain in police custody on the night of Mr. Martin's death, and

5 WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission joins others around the world in questioning the applicability of the "Stand Your Ground" law in the this case of the State of Florida versus George Zimmerman, and

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6 WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria's Human Rights Commission affirms that, in the criminal justice system, police and prosecutors, as officers of the court have an affirmative obligation to must properly balance the rights of victims with the rights of the accused, and

7 WHEREAS, in the wake of the Trayvon Martin killing, this tragic situation has generated significant public outrage spread across the Nation, among all races, eliciting rallies of protest in various cities, including the City of concern in Alexandria and around the country about Stand Your Ground Laws, Racial Profiling and Vigilantism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

That the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia:

- 1. Supports the fair and proper administration of justice as relates to the death family of Trayvon Martin; and their fight for justice;

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2. Denounces racial profiling of and vigilantism against any and all federally protected classes under civil rights laws, and reaffirms its commitment to ensuring and protecting the rights of all, without distinction as to race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, familial status or sexual orientation, regardless of characterization; and

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3. Prays that the appropriate authorities in the State of Florida properly limit the application of its "Stand Your Ground" law, to the extent that they find that unreasonable provocation by one claiming self defense pursuant to "Stand Your Ground" waives the same if s/he is the preliminary aggressor in what turns out to be a fatality; and

3. Rejects in principle "Stand Your Ground" laws; and

4. Reaffirms that the pursuit of justice and equality must never be taken for granted and is a universal human right as set forth in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

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Adopted: May 22, 2012

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk