

RESOLUTION

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT PUBLISHED LIST OF POSTED #54

To Be Scheduled for March 4, 2016

WHEREAS, this year marks the 50th Anniversary of a key event in the Civil Rights movement of our Nation: the historic march from Selma to Montgomery — a march which led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965 civil rights activists were brutally attacked by Alabama state troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma and this day, now known as Bloody Sunday, was the first of three planned, peaceful protests from Selma to Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, the first protest involved 600 civil rights activists, who began a march to protest unfair voter registration practices and the shooting death of Jimmie Lee Jackson during a voter registration drive; in that event the marchers progressed only six blocks from the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where many were tear-gassed and beaten; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1965, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a symbolic march of 2,000 people to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, all kneeling there to pray; and on March 21, 1965, with protection from the Alabama National Guard, more than 3,000 people set out from Selma again led by Rev. King, marching an average of 12 miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in farm fields; by the time that group reached Montgomery on March 25, 1965 the group grew to 25,000 participants, where Rev. King delivered one of his most venerated speeches; and

WHEREAS, five months after the third march in this historic three-week period, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as a recognition of the right of all United States citizens to fully participate in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the significance of these marches cannot be overstated: America was forced to face its own inhumanity after witnessing the brutal attacks on Bloody Sunday and it was the courage of those brave marchers, both men and women – black and white – that made our country a more just and democratic nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has also acted to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to institute a status report on the State of Civil Rights in Los Angeles each year on the anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Los Angeles hereby marks the 50th Anniversary of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery — a march which led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965; and calls upon all of our residents to commemorate this key event in the history of our Nation.

PRESENTED BY: Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilman, 8th District

Gilbert Cedillo

SECONDED BY: Robert O. Zurett
Mary Hartney

ORIGINAL

FEB 24 2015

[Handwritten initials]