



Miami-Dade Branch
National Association For The Advancement of Colored People
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Statement on “Stand Your Ground” Law

My name is Bradford E. Brown President of the Miami-Dade NAACP. We in Miami were personally impacted by the killing of our fellow resident, Trayvon Martin. In my case his uncle is a friend and fellow community activist. In addition Miami-Dade has been the scene of egregious “stand your ground” rulings such as the one where an individual saw someone stealing a radio from his truck and grabbed a knife ran outside after the thief and stabbed him to death and when charges were brought by the State Attorney the perpetrator pleaded “stand your ground” and the judge granted him that dismissal. Our Branch submitted a resolution on this issue to the NAACP National Convention which was passed and is attached. As the resolution makes clear this is loosely worded legislation allowing its application to be all over the place and replaces a very clear process of “self-defense” claims.

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Department of Law Enforcement website as of June 25, 2007, murders increased statewide by 42%; and

WHEREAS, groups such as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) – who promotes conservative public policy by drafting legislation and pushing for policies in state legislatures – and the NRA have promoted “Stand Your Ground” laws across the country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP – in honor of the life of Trayvon Martin and similar cases, and because “Stand Your Ground” type laws undermine the civil rights of African Americans and other people of color – initiate a national effort to halt the expansion of “Stand Your Ground” type laws, and repeal those existing throughout the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to the enactment, at the federal, state and local levels, of safe, sane and sensible gun laws, as well as aggressive anti-racial profiling laws, which include training from the top law enforcement officials down to the members of community watch groups as how to identify racial profiling and not use it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon its Units to move from moment to movement and use this opportunity of heightened awareness to promote education on how our communities can protect themselves from these “Stand Your Ground” laws and their unequal application; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP call for the federal review of state “Stand Your Ground” laws to include racially disaggregated data in regards to the race, ethnicity and gender of the perpetrator and the victim of the “self defense” homicide.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *Collective Bargaining Rights of Public Employees and the “Human Rights as Home Campaign”*

#3803 Indianapolis A Branch
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WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. in his last days with us, spoke of “...going beyond purely civil rights to questions of human rights,” and said, “Now our struggle is for true equality, which means economic equality”; and

~~BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED~~ that the NAACP and its Units support legislation that prevents the sale of any federal, state or local prison or jail to any entity.

11. Repealing "Stand Your Ground" Type Laws, Protecting Black Americans and Honoring the Life of Trayvon Martin

#1021 California State Conference

#5746 Miami-Dade, FL County

Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and CEO

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2012, Trayvon Martin was shot to death while walking home from his local 7-11 because he was deemed "suspicious" by George Zimmerman – a self-appointed neighborhood watch captain; and

WHEREAS, Trayvon Martin was not found with a gun, only with sneakers, socks and wearing a sports hoodie; and

WHEREAS, Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law includes an "immunity provision" that protects the shooter from arrest unless police can determine that the force used was indeed unlawful; and

WHEREAS, these laws eliminate the "duty to retreat" and such duty should be an initial action taken to maintain calm in any potential situation that could result in harm or deadly force; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2005, Florida became the first state in the Union to pass the "Personal Protection Bill," which greatly expands the "Castle Doctrine," eliminating the requirement to retreat in cases of defending ones house against intruders, which has become known as the "Stand Your Ground" law; and

WHEREAS, since that time, 32 more states have copied at least part of not all of Florida's statute; and at least five (5) states, including Florida, have an "immunity provision"; and

WHEREAS, "justifiable homicides," murders in which the perpetrator has not been charged with murder, usually drastically increase after the implementation of these laws – in Florida for example, such homicides increased by 300% in a five-year period, and FBI data indicates that the same is true for other states; and

WHEREAS, if the reckless and misguided intent of the "Stand Your Ground" law is to create safer communities, one might expect to see a decrease in crime. However, the 2006 Florida annual crime statistics indicate just the opposite result. Although other crimes decreased in 2006, gun crimes, including murders, armed robberies, and assaults increased. In fact, according to the Florida