

RESOLUTION NO. 090431

Requesting that the United States Congress appropriate full funding to implement the provisions of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act and that President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder convene a summit meeting to discuss plans to fully investigate these crimes.

WHEREAS, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act (the Till Bill) to provide the financial resources, the personnel and a Congressional mandate to investigate and prosecute unsolved murders from the civil rights era was signed into law last year; and

WHEREAS, although several decades have passed since these heinous crimes were committed, many of the perpetrators are believed to still be alive; and

WHEREAS, bringing these perpetrators to justice is an essential step in healing our nation's racial divisions and correcting the injustices of our nation's past; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence in bringing these perpetrators to justice since each year more of the perpetrators and the witnesses to their crimes die and the memories of the witnesses continue to fade; and

WHEREAS, the Till Bill designates a Deputy Chief in the Criminal Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and a Supervisory Agent in the Civil Rights Unit of the FBI to coordinate efforts by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice; and

WHEREAS, for these purposes, the law authorizes \$10 million annually through fiscal year 2017 and also authorizes \$2 million annually for grants to state and local law enforcement agencies from the Justice Department and \$1.5 million annually for partnerships with local communities through the Community Relations Service within the Justice Department; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas City based Emmett Till Justice Campaign, Inc., headed by Alvin Sykes, President, which led the long struggle to pass the Till Bill has stressed the urgency of appropriating full funding to implement the Bill's provisions in fiscal year 2010 and also has requested that President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder convene a summit meeting to discuss plans to investigate these unsolved murders and to demonstrate the administration's commitment to bringing all living perpetrators to justice; and

WHEREAS, numerous United States Senators are on record in favor of fully funding the Till Bill, including Missouri Senator Clair McCaskill, and Senator McCaskill also has gone on record in favor of convening a summit on plans to fully investigate these brutal crimes; NOW, THEREFORE,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the United States Congress is hereby requested to appropriate full funding to implement the provisions of the Till Bill in fiscal year 2010.

Section 2. That President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder are hereby requested to convene a summit meeting as soon as possible to discuss plans to fully investigate the unsolved racially motivated murders of the civil rights era.

Section 3. That the City Manager's office is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to the Missouri Congressional delegation, President Barack Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder, the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, Inc., and the City's federal lobbying team.
