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rodking.jlb  
April 30, 1992

Introduced by:

Proposed No.:

92-360

MOTION NO. 8627

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A MOTION relating to the violent beating by certain police officers in Los Angeles of Rodney King and the acquittal in state court of the officers charged for this beating; calling on the Los Angeles District Attorney to retry any charges not disposed of by a jury verdict, urging the President to direct the Attorney General of the United States to fully investigate the beating and to bring appropriate charges under federal law against those who may have violated Mr. King's civil rights, and requesting the Washington Congressional delegation to urge the President to take such steps.

WHEREAS, the American public was appalled to witness the brutal beating of Rodney King by certain police officers in Los Angeles, California which was recorded on videotape and widely broadcast on national television, and

WHEREAS, four officers were charged in state court with various crimes as a result of their actions in connection with this beating, but were acquitted, perhaps in part due to the change of venue of the trial away from the metropolitan Los Angeles area, the resulting substantial lack of minority representation in the jury pool, and the trial strategy chosen by the District Attorney, and

WHEREAS, in reaction to the announcement of the acquittal of these officers there has been violent rioting in Los Angeles resulting in at least nine deaths and hundreds of injuries, many of them serious, and

WHEREAS, retrial of at least one defendant is possible on at least one charge on which the jury did not render a verdict and the Los Angeles District Attorney should be called upon to do so, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice is reported to have been monitoring the state criminal process in

1 response to the beating for evaluation of possible federal  
2 criminal charges related to violation of civil rights, and

3 WHEREAS, the beating of Rodney King represents a gross  
4 deviation from the accepted law enforcement practices which are  
5 followed by most police agencies including the King County  
6 Department of Public Safety;

7 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

8 A. The President of the United States is urged to direct  
9 the Attorney General of the United States to fully investigate  
10 the Rodney King beating and to bring appropriate charges under  
11 federal law against those who may have violated Mr. King's  
12 civil rights.

13 B. The Washington Congressional delegation is requested  
14 to urge the President to take such steps.

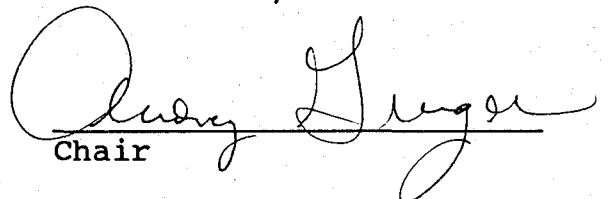
15 C. The Los Angeles District Attorney is called upon to  
16 retry any defendant in connection with the Rodney King beating  
17 on any charge which was not disposed of by a jury verdict.

18 PASSED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1992.

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KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


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Chair

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ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Council