

SENATE REMONSTRANCE NO. 1

Whereas, in November of 2008, Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon was elected Governor of the great state of Missouri; and

Whereas, earlier in his political career, Mr. Nixon served as a Missouri State Senator as well as the state Attorney General; and

Whereas, during his numerous years as an elected official, Mr. Nixon has consistently exhibited a prideful disengagement from African American issues as well as an extraordinary level of personal disdain for African American concerns; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon seems only to acknowledge the existence of the African American community on or about Election Day; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon, as state Attorney General, filed a motion in district court to end the St. Louis school desegregation program under which Black students from the city were bused to county school districts, an action which sought to re-segregate and make permanent the St. Louis area public schools' lack of equality; and

Whereas, in October 2014, Mr. Nixon acknowledged in a speech that he had long understood (and had in fact lived) the evil of "separate and unequal" growing up in Missouri; and

Whereas, to that end, Mr. Nixon stated that in his small town: "the railroad tracks were the racial dividing line: whites on one side, blacks on the other. Separate and unequal. It was the way things were"; and

Whereas, by filing such a motion to end the St. Louis Desegregation Program, with his intense, personal knowledge of the great immorality of "separate and unequal", Mr. Nixon willingly and effectively aligned himself with former Alabama Governor George C. Wallace, who, during his Inauguration address, famously declared "Segregation now, Segregation tomorrow, Segregation forever!"; and

Whereas, in 2014, when the General Assembly passed bipartisan legislation which sought to offer students trapped in failing schools a hierarchy of options to attend higher quality schools, Mr. Nixon vetoed such legislation, another demonstration of his disdain for children of color; and

Whereas, the segregated and unequal nature of the St. Louis area schools is one of the root causes of the civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri; and

Whereas, with the tragedy unfolding in Ferguson, Mr. Nixon has repeatedly exhibited failed leadership on numerous occasions; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon, during his term as Governor, has demonstrated his willingness to respond quickly to natural disasters, but has been missing in action when faced with human disasters, especially human disasters plaguing communities of color; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon took far too long to acknowledge the seriousness of Michael Brown's murder; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon disregarded multiple requests from the Black community to appoint a special prosecutor so that the shooting of Michael Brown might be justly investigated; and

Whereas, fifteen days came and went from the day Mr. Brown was murdered until Mr. Nixon reluctantly visited Ground Zero; and

Whereas, it took a call from the President of the United States before Mr. Nixon grudgingly canceled his appearance at a ham breakfast in rural Missouri and finally made a brief appearance in Ferguson; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon failed to act despite the fact that the President of the United States as well as the entire nation was aware of the need for attention to the seriousness of Michael Brown's killing; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon's lack of empathy and open disdain for the plight of minority communities is consistent with the institutional racism that is prevalent in Missouri state government today; and

Whereas, in one of the most egregious examples of institutional racism, Mr. Nixon created the Office of Community Engagement and the Ferguson Commission, a naked act of self-serving racial politics and political pandering; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon has been a state government official for over thirty years, and in that time has seemed wholly unconcerned with the plight of minority communities until the cities of Ferguson and Dellwood caught fire; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon created these new entities only in the wake of negative media attention over his botched response to the crisis in Ferguson, a thinly-veiled, transparent, hollow, and cynical political maneuver aimed at deflecting the negative media attention he has rightfully received for his lack of leadership; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon, despite possessing a law degree, has demonstrated a clear disregard for the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, to that end, Mr. Nixon has supported the imposition of a curfew for peaceful protesters;  
and

Whereas, despite his law degree and years serving as the Attorney General, Mr. Nixon has supported an unconstitutional "5 second rule" adopted by law enforcement, in which officers were instructed to tell protesters they had to keep moving or face arrest; and

Whereas, U.S. District Court Judge Catherine D. Perry ruled that "the practice of requiring peaceful demonstrators and others to walk, rather than stand still, violated the Constitution"; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon has treated minority citizens as insurgents; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon has failed to take responsibility for the police tactics used by law enforcement in the state under his watch; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon condoned law enforcement's practice of "hog-tying" peaceful protesters; and

Whereas, one such peaceful protester, an unconscious pregnant women, was kicked by police officers while hog-tied; and

Whereas, Mr. Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson to protect the property of Ferguson prior to the indictment announcement by County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch; and

Whereas, after the indictment announcement, despite Mr. Nixon's promise to business owners, the National Guard was in fact NOT stationed in Ferguson (ground zero) or Dellwood and, as a result, both cities went up in flames; and

Whereas, by deciding not to deploy the Missouri National Guard to West Florissant on the day of the Grand Jury announcement, Mr. Nixon permitted several businesses to burn, including an office where the Senator from the 14th taught civic engagement classes to Ferguson residents; and

Whereas, as a result of Mr. Nixon's broken promise to business owners, the State of Missouri will be obligated for millions of dollars to repair the damages; and

Whereas, since Mr. Nixon refused to properly deploy the National Guardsmen, who were ordered to remain at the armory, brave fire fighters were shot at in the course of performing their duty, facing life-threatening attacks by agitators; and

Whereas, in failing to take responsibility for his recurrent poor decision-making throughout the catastrophe in Ferguson and elsewhere, Mr. Nixon has demonstrated his inherent disregard for the responsibilities associated with, and his lack of fitness for, the lofty position he unfortunately holds:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, First Regular Session, hereby remonstrate against Governor Nixon for his failed and incompetent leadership; and

Be It Further Resolved that for the reasons expressed above and many others, the Missouri Senate hereby strongly recommends that Mr. Nixon resign his position immediately; and

Be It Further Resolved that if Mr. Nixon fails to resign, the Missouri House of Representatives should strongly consider impeaching the Governor for willful neglect of duty and incompetence, as the great state of Missouri cannot afford to bear the costs of his failed leadership; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to send a copy of this remonstrance to the Governor and to each member of the Missouri House of Representatives.

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