



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

July 16, 2013

Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Call for Criminal Civil Rights Charges against George Zimmerman

Dear Attorney General Holder:

The late Senator Edward Kennedy believed that civil rights remain American's great unfinished business. George Zimmerman's acquittal by a Florida jury for second degree murder and manslaughter should not absolve us of Trayvon Martin's wrongful death. Federal civil rights statutes allow for the criminal prosecution of ordinary citizens when racial motivation results in bodily injury. Federal intervention will do what the Florida court did not do: that is to squarely address the issue of race and the role that it played in the wrongful death of young Trayvon Martin.

The Florida jury was not asked to answer whether Trayvon Martin's fundamental civil right to walk down the street was violated by George Zimmerman. The answer to this question is unfinished business.

I understand that civil rights enforcement is a critical priority for President Barack Obama's administration. The mission of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division is to protect and defend the civil rights of all individuals. As such, I respectfully request that the Department of Justice fulfill its mission and defend the civil rights of Trayvon Martin, and by extension all Americans.

With hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Ridley-Thomas".

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

Chairman of the Board,
Supervisor, Second District