

New Action/UFT

...a caucus of the United Federation of Teachers
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NEW ACTION CALL FOR JUSTICE FOR TRAYVON MARTIN

On March 26, 2012, New Action leaders on the UFT Executive Board put our union on record, calling for justice for Trayvon Martin. George Zimmerman, a "neighborhood watch volunteer" admitted he shot and killed 15 year old Trayvon, an unarmed African-American high school student. The Sanford, Florida police had refused to arrest Zimmerman. The New Action resolution called on the UFT to join the nationwide movement to condemn the unjustified, fatal shooting and demanded that Angela Corey, Florida's 4th District State's Attorney, investigate Trayvon's murder and prosecute Zimmerman.

Since that time, Zimmerman has been indicted for second degree murder. Today's resolution takes into account the recent developments. It highlights our opposition to the "stand your ground laws" that only encourage the use of lethal violence.

The resolution also puts a spotlight on the racial profiling of African-American youth. It is that practice that led New Action to initiate the resolution to

OPPOSE THE NYPD'S "STOP AND FRISK" PRACTICES

Since 2002 the number of NYPD stops of African-Americans and Latinos has jumped nearly 700%. In 2011 685,000 stop and searches were conducted by the NYPD. As today's resolution states, "87 percent of the people stopped...were people of color, and 53 % were African-American." 9 out of 10 have done nothing wrong or illegal. How many are our students? This practice is not only damnable but it is thoroughly and blatantly racist. It clearly violates the Fourth Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Today we place ourselves in strong opposition to the current NYPD policy of "stop and frisk." Further, this resolution supports the communities with the largest concentration of people of color. It unites us with the NYCLU, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and others to support legislation to ban the practice. This legislation would also prohibit "NYPD quotas for a minimum number of stops and searches each police officer must make." Isn't it time we as a society end the practice of racial profiling and institutional racism?!

HIS FINAL DAYS IN SIGHT, BLOOMBERG REMAINS DANGEROUS

Let's look forward, and back. How will we undo a decade of damage to public education? The destruction of our schools? The focus on test prep? The mismanagement of special ed? The scapegoating of teachers? The colocations and proliferation of anti-union charter schools?.

Bottom Line - Mayoral Control is dangerous, and needs to be ended.

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