

The New York City Council

Legislation Details (With Text)

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2001

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Title: Resolution supporting the Charleston Five and condemning the targeting of union members and

activists and all attempts in the state of South Carolina to restrict or encroach upon the civil liberties

and democratic freedoms of such members and activists.

Christine C. Quinn, Gifford Miller, Bill Perkins, Julia Harrison, Herbert E. Berman, Karen Koslowitz, Sponsors:

Adolfo Carrion, Stanley E. Michels, June M. Eisland, Wendell Foster, Kathryn E. Freed, Annette M.

Robinson

Indexes:

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Res. No. 2089

Resolution supporting the Charleston Five and condemning the targeting of union members and activists and all attempts in the state of South Carolina to restrict or encroach upon the civil liberties and democratic freedoms of such members and activists.

By Council Members Quinn, Miller, Perkins, Harrison, Berman, Koslowitz, Carrion and Michels; also Council Members Eisland, Foster, Freed and Robinson

Whereas, The right to organize and engage in union activity is protected by the National Labor Relations Act; and

Whereas, The International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422 was in a protracted labor dispute with the Nordana shipping line in order to defend union jobs, union wages, and union safety protections at the Port of Charleston, South Carolina; and

Whereas, On January 20, 2000, 150 members of the International Longshoremens' Association (ILA) Local 1422 picketed a Nordana shipping line container ship that was being unloaded by non-union labor; and

Whereas, Subsequent to the violent dispersal of the January 20th picket line that left ILA Local 1422 president Ken Riley clubbed to the ground, five Charleston, South Carolina union members (the "Charleston Five") have been charged with "felonious riot"; and

Whereas, As a result of the labor dispute with the Nordana shipping line, the Charleston Five were placed under house arrest for eighteen months and during that time were forbidden from leaving their homes from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM; and

Whereas, In response to South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges's nomination of Ken Riley to a seat on the State Port Authority, the State House of Representatives began considering legislation baring union members from membership on all state commissions, which on its face appears to be unconstitutional; now, therefore, be it;

Resolved, That New York City Council supports the Charleston Five and condemns the targeting of union members and activists and any and all attempts in the state of South Carolina to restrict or encroach upon the civil liberties and democratic freedoms of such members and activists.

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