

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2001

Source
CCS HJR 22

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
27



Relating to a diverse community; condemning a recent racially motivated attack; and requesting the Municipality of Anchorage police department to continue their conclusive investigation and requesting the criminal justice system to take rapid action to reach the determination of this case.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Anchorage is a diverse community with more than 18 identified ethnic groups making up nearly 30 percent of its population; and

WHEREAS more than 20 percent of the Alaska Native and Native American population of the state resides in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS Anchorage has a responsibility to take a leadership role in eliminating wrongful discrimination and an obligation to help create a climate of tolerance and understanding with the various ethnic groups in the city; and

WHEREAS the recent incident involving targeting of Alaska Natives for harassment and violent action by three youthful Anchorage residents armed with paintball guns is deplorable and reflects badly on every citizen of Anchorage and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS federal law 18 U.S.C. 245 makes it unlawful by the commission of certain acts to prevent a person from exercising a "federally protected right" when the assailant is motivated by bias based on race, religion, national origin, or color; and

WHEREAS Alaska law AS 12.55.155(c)(22) provides as an aggravating factor for sentencing for a serious crime that "the defendant knowingly directed the conduct constituting the offense at a victim because of that person's race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental disability, ancestry, or national origin," and the finding of an aggravating factor allows the court to increase a presumptive sentence for such an offense up to the maximum sentence for that offense; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature condemns all hate crimes, racism, and wrongful discrimination and calls on the public and the citizens of the state to likewise condemn hate crimes, racism, and wrongful discrimination in any form;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature condemns the recent racially motivated attack in Anchorage and finds the conduct of those perpetrating this act, or any similar conduct, to be reprehensible and unacceptable; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Municipality of Anchorage police department to complete a thorough and conclusive investigation of that attack so as to allow the criminal justice system to take the actions necessary to reach a rapid determination; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature joins with the Alaska Federation of Natives in their request to the United States Commission on Civil Rights to conduct a formal investigation into this incident and other incidents of wrongful discrimination in Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable John Ashcroft, Attorney General of the United States; the Honorable Mary Frances Berry, Chair, United States Commission on Civil Rights; the Honorable George Wuerch, Mayor of Anchorage; the members of the Anchorage Assembly; Julia Kitka, President, Alaska Federation of Natives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.