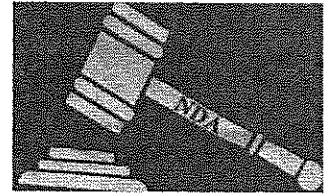




Blacks In Government®
2015 National Delegates Assembly
Orlando, Florida



RESOLUTION

BIG Supports Congresswoman Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas Sponsored Legislation H.R. 59 - "Building Bridges and Transforming Resentment and Unfairness to Support and Trust for Municipal Law Enforcement" or "Build TRUST Act"

WHEREAS, The National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit organization to advocate and educate and, today, BIG seeks to represent 3.4 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, the United States government, utilizing both public and private industry, employs over 2.5 million people, according to the Office of Personnel Management's statistics; and

WHEREAS, understanding such a massive workforce known as the Federal Government administered by three branches of government known as Executive, Legislative and Judicial, and each having co-equal United States constitutional authority, were designed as a system of checks and balances to "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure individual liberty" in accordance with the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman, the Honorable Shelia Jackson Lee of Texas is the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations and, has been joined by Co-Sponsor, the Honorable John Conyers, Jr., Judiciary Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet; and

WHEREAS, The growing trend of local units of government using traffic fines and traffic court fees and cost as revenue generators has the potential to breed public cynicism and distrust of local law enforcement agencies, and to lessen public confidence that the laws are being enforced impartially and the criminal justice system is administered equally; and

WHEREAS, this lack of public confidence in the system, particularly by residents of minority communities has the potential for exacerbating already tense relations between law enforcement and community residents and could result in public confrontations like those occurring recently in Ferguson, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, In recent weeks, the New York Times and Washington Post have published and exposed documentation that there are many municipalities that rely upon traffic fines and associated courts to fund at least one-third of their operating budgets, and in several instances the percentage exceeded 50 percent. And it was discovered that one community in Missouri derived 86% of its revenues from traffic fines; and

WHEREAS, This is why it is imperative that National BIG must support H.R. 59 the “Build Trust Act”, which addresses this problem by providing for a 75% reduction in the amount of Department of Justice grant funding that may be awarded to a unit of local government that funds an amount that is greater than 18% of its operating budget using revenue generated from collecting fines and other fees related to violations of traffic laws; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the amount of the reduction would increase to 95 percent if, for the political subdivision involved, the variance in the racial composition of the local law enforcement agency and residents of the political subdivision exceeds 30 percent for any racial group; and

WHEREAS, this legislation exempts any unit of local government serving a population of less than 15,000 persons and authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to grant request for waivers to individual units of local government upon a showing of good cause, which is noted specifically in three separate provision within this legislation.

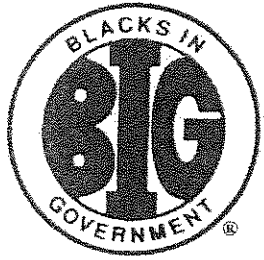
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- (1) The National President of Blacks In Government will write a letter within 120 days to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Chair of the U.S. Senate expressing BIG National support of H.R. 59.
- (2) And further send a copy of each letter to the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee and the Honorable John Conyers, Jr. with a cover letter advising that BIG National is available to testify in support of the passage of H.R. 59.

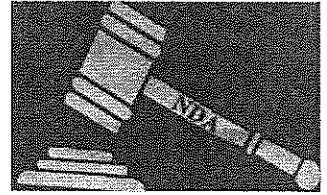
Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg

BIG Region XI
Heritage Chapter President
Retired, Chief Deputy United States Marshal
Former BIG National 1st Vice President
June 8, 2015



Blacks In Government®
2015 National Delegates Assembly
Orlando, Florida



RESOLUTION

BIG Endorses Provisions of The Uniform Reporting Law Enforcement Improvement Act (URLEIA), A Legislative Proposal Designed To Ensure Transparency and Accountability in Policing at the Local, State and National Levels

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of federal, state and municipal government employees. Today, BIG seeks to represent 3.4 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, the United States government, utilizing both public and private industry, employs over 2.5 million people, according to the Office of Personnel Management's statistics; and

WHEREAS, understanding such a massive workforce known as the Federal Government administered by three branches of government known as Executive, Legislative and Judicial, and each having co-equal United States constitutional authority, were designed as a system of checks and balances to "provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure individual liberty" in accordance with the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, today, most statistical data now confirm that black and brown people in America are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement officials at the local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agents, who kill unarmed black and brown people, are being excused for their actions as justifiable homicides and therefore, held unaccountable; and

WHEREAS, effective legislation is needed to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of persons who interact with law enforcement and a national policing approach that imposes upon law enforcement agents an *obligation to preserve life and prevent injury during the policing process* in order to afford every person "due process" of law; and

WHEREAS, Non-profit ONUS, Inc., (www.changeisonus.org) has joined with advocacy and legal organizations nationwide to draft a legislative proposal titled the Uniform Reporting Law Enforcement Improvement Act (URLEIA) <http://tinyurl.com/qadjy7z> that, once adopted and enacted into law, would create the transparency citizens seek and the accountability citizens demand by:

- Creating a national pattern or practice data bank called POP, which will document interactions that occur between members of the public and law enforcement agents.
- Requiring that every law enforcement agent and private-duty security officer in the nation use the POP data bank for incident reporting.
- Tracking the individual actions of every law enforcement agent in the nation.
- Tracking the race, gender, and age of every person who is the subject of a law enforcement incident or action.
- Providing data and reports that enable citizens and watchdogs to quickly identify and remove bad law enforcement agents.
- Deputizing licensed attorneys and giving them the power to act on behalf of the Department of Justice to prosecute abusive law enforcement agencies and agents.
- Forever barring an “unfit” law enforcement agent from working as a law enforcement agent anywhere in the United States.
- Imposing upon law enforcement agents an “obligation to preserve life and prevent injury” during policing.
- Handing over control of the entire investigative process following a police shooting or incident of abuse to an independent investigative team selected by the family from state website.
- Empowering the independent investigative team, not public prosecutor, with the responsibility to present evidence to public grand jury.
- Allowing the victim’s family to select an attorney (*private* prosecutor) to criminally prosecute law enforcement agent(s) accused of excessive force.
- Allowing for speedy removal of law enforcement agents deemed “unfit.”

- Requiring the U.S. Attorney General to create an Office of Civilian Oversight and Accountability.
- Allowing citizens across the nation to take a significant role in helping to develop law enforcement training and other policies.
- Providing for unscheduled in-the-field inspections of law enforcement agents and their vehicles to detect “throw down” weapons and contraband.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- (1) The National President of Blacks In Government will write a letter to the President of Onus, Inc., (Ms.) Jerroll M. Sanders, within 120 days, expressing support for the provisions contained in the Uniform Law Enforcement Improvement Act (URLEIA), which are designed to *Strip Law Enforcement of Unbridled Power*.
- (2) And further send a copy of the letter to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House, and the Chair of the U.S. Senate advising that BIG National fully supports the provisions contained in the United Law Enforcement Improvement Act and is willing to testify in support of the provisions and the need to enact them into law.

Submitted by:

Matthew F. Fogg

BIG Region XI
Heritage Chapter President
Retired, Chief Deputy United States Marshal
Former BIG National 1st Vice President
June 8, 2015

