

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 050886)

RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Department of Justice to order an independent investigation of the circumstances of the fatal shooting of Puerto Rican nationalist leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

WHEREAS, Aníbal Acevedo Vilá, the Governor of Puerto Rico, has described the FBI's actions in the fatal shooting of Filiberto Ojeda as improper and highly irregular, and has asked for an independent investigation; and

WHEREAS, The reputation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is one of a professionally trained and managed law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, On September 23, 2005 Filiberto Ojeda Rios, a Puerto Rican nationalist leader was killed by FBI agents and the official autopsy report indicates that Mr. Ojeda bled to death over a period of several hours in which he did not receive medical attention; and

WHEREAS, The available information regarding the circumstances of the death of Filiberto Ojeda Rios are unclear and troubling to many people; and

WHEREAS, FBI Director Robert Mueller agrees that the case is troubling and has therefore ordered an investigation into the shooting; and

WHEREAS, The three representatives of Puerto Rican heritage in the United States House of Representatives, Luis V. Gutierrez, Jose E. Serrano and Nydia M. Velazquez and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, Luis Fortuño all have requested an investigation of the circumstances of the shooting; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Charles Rangel, expressed outrage about the shooting and called for thorough investigations by the U.S. Justice Department and Congress in order to bring those responsible to justice; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 050886 continued

WHEREAS, Amnesty International has called for an independent investigation in the interests of public confidence, transparency and the integrity of all involved and has noted that by international standards law enforcement officers should only use firearms in response to an immediate threat of death or serious injury when non-violent measures have been exhausted or are ineffective; and

WHEREAS, Human compassion dictates that anyone injured and incapacitated by force or firearms should receive prompt medical attention; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That this legislative body urges the United States Department of Justice to order an independent investigation of the circumstances of the fatal shooting of Puerto Rican Nationalist leader Filiberto Ojeda Rios by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Attorney General of the United States.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 050886 continued

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 050886 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twentieth of October, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Ramos, Goode and Mariano

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Ramos, Goode, Mariano Reynolds Brown, Miller, Clarke, Tasco, DiCicco, Blackwell, Kelly and Kenney