Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title:	Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Summer Project.			
Sponsors:	Laurie A. Cumbo, Inez D. Barron, Margaret S. Chin, Costa G. Constantinides, Vanessa L. Gibson, Stephen T. Levin, Rosie Mendez, Donovan J. Richards, Andrew Cohen			
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Res. No. 377

Resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi Summer Project.

By Council Members Cumbo, Barron, Chin, Constantinides, Gibson, Levin, Mendez, Richards and Cohen

Whereas, In the summer of 1964, various civil rights organizations formed a voter registration drive that became known as the Mississippi Summer Project or Freedom Summer ("the Project"); and

Whereas, The mission of the Project was to dramatically increase voter registration of African Americans in Mississippi; and

Whereas, The Project brought hundreds of student volunteers throughout the United States to Mississippi to challenge the State's system of unbending segregation, which included preventing non-whites from voting, obtaining an adequate education and holding an elected office position; and

Whereas, Various civil rights organizations stationed in New York City recruited volunteers to send to Mississippi in an effort to join the Project and put an end to these injustices; and

Whereas, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Legal Defense

Fund, and other organizations located in New York City and Washington D.C., helped transfer volunteer attorneys to assist with the Project; and

Whereas, Throughout the Project, which lasted ten weeks, over 1,000 people were arrested, 80 volunteers were beaten, many African American churches, homes and businesses were bombed or burned, four civil rights workers were killed and several more were critically wounded; and

Whereas, Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were volunteers who decided to examine the burning of an African American church near Philadelphia; and

Whereas, These young men were arrested by the police, locked up for several hours and then released in the middle of the night to the Klu Klux Klan, who then assaulted and murdered the three men; and

Whereas, The murders deeply affected the Project and gave more momentum to the cause; and

Whereas, The Project helped facilitate the registration of over 1,000 African American voters and established 40 Freedom Schools, alternative free schools for African American youth designated to cultivate political participation and discussion and to educate and encourage African Americans to be activists and to be agents of change in Mississippi after the Freedom Summer ended; and

Whereas, Because of the Project, some of the barriers to vote for African Americans in Mississippi were eliminated; and

Whereas, To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Project, nonprofit organizations in Mississippi hosted a conference in June of 2014 called "The Mississippi Freedom Summer 50th Anniversary Conference" where attendees acknowledged the individuals who worked and lost their lives in an effort to change the rigid segregation that existed in Mississippi; and

Whereas, To honor the individuals and organizations that worked diligently in an effort to achieve equality during the Project, the City of New York should recognize the summer of 2014 as the 50th anniversary of the Project; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Mississippi

Summer Project.

JSM
8/15/2014
LS# 2221