

By: Representative Williams-
Barnes

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION URGING AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE TO EXPEL REPRESENTATIVE KARL
3 OLIVER DUE TO THE INCENDIARY AND RACIALLY OFFENSIVE PUBLIC
4 STATEMENTS HE MADE REGARDING "LYNCHING" OF "LEADERSHIP"
5 RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE STATUES IN NEW ORLEANS.

6 WHEREAS, Section 55 of the Mississippi Constitution provides,
7 in part, that "Each House may determine rules of its own
8 proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with
9 the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present, expel a
10 member..."; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Karl Oliver's public statement
12 calling for the "lynching" of "leadership" responsible for the
13 removal of Confederate statues in New Orleans, Louisiana, was
14 racially offensive, racially provocative and evidenced a complete
15 lack of appreciation for and knowledge of the accurate history and
16 experiences of Mississippi's citizenry; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Oliver's additional inflammatory
18 public statement on the same day, "Let it be known, I will do all
19 in my power to prevent this from happening in our state,"



20 evidences his intent to "lynch" those who disagree with his stance
21 on the removal of Confederate statues and other Confederate era
22 symbols; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Oliver's apology for using the word
24 "lynching" does not mitigate the sentiment nor remove the rousing
25 effects of his words on those who believe similarly and his
26 presence will exacerbate the ever present tensions around race and
27 class on the work of the Mississippi Legislature; and

28 WHEREAS, because statements such as these exceed mere
29 disorderly behavior and shame the office of Mississippi
30 Representatives; and

31 WHEREAS, as members of the Mississippi Legislature struggle
32 to work across party, racial and gender lines, Representative
33 Oliver's continued presence in the Legislature will deter and
34 diminish any further progress amongst members; and

35 WHEREAS, due to his actions, Representative Oliver should no
36 longer be a member of this distinguished body:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
38 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE State of Mississippi, That we urge at least
39 two-thirds of the members of the Mississippi House of
40 Representatives to vote to permanently expel Representative Karl
41 Oliver from the Mississippi House of Representatives due to the
42 incendiary and racially offensive public statements he made
43 regarding "lynching" of "leadership" responsible for removal of
44 Confederate statues in New Orleans.

