

10     **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING EX-FEMA DIRECTOR MICHAEL BROWN**

20     **WHEREAS:**     At 6:19am on August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, a category 4 storm, made  
30                     landfall in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana; and,

40     **WHEREAS:**     At 11:00am that same day the levee system that protected New Orleans from  
50                     Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River was breached and the city flooded;  
60                     and,

70     **WHEREAS:**     The National Guard supplied emergency rations to the New Orleans Superdome  
80                     to feed and house 15,000 people; and,

90     **WHEREAS:**     As many as 60,000 people took refuge in the New Orleans Superdome to escape  
100                    the storm; and,

110    **WHEREAS:**     There have been widespread reports of murders, rapes, beatings, robberies, and  
120                    general mayhem in the Superdome during the event; and,

130    **WHEREAS:**     Due to the lack of hurricane shelters the New Orleans Convention Center was  
140                    broken into by the citizens of New Orleans seeking safety from the storm; and,

150    **WHEREAS:**     As many as 20,000 people filled the Convention Center and reports similar to the  
160                    one's coming from the Superdome were also occurring at the Convention Center;  
170                    and,

180    **WHEREAS:**     The first FEMA official in New Orleans, Marty Bahamonde, sent at e-mail to  
190                    Michael Brown from the Superdome on August 28<sup>th</sup>. He reported that food and  
200                    safety at the Superdome were both very scarce and help was needed as quickly as  
210                    possible. Bahamonde continued to send requests for aid in the following days;  
220                    and,

230    **WHEREAS:**     Michael Brown did not respond to these message directly but on August 31<sup>st</sup> his  
240                    press secretary sent a message back to Bahamonde to say that Brown, who was in  
250                    Baton Rouge, needed more time to eat dinner at a restaurant; and,

260    **WHEREAS:**     Marty Bahamonde responded to the message by saying that, "Just tell her that I  
270                    just ate [a meals-ready-to-eat] and crapped in the hallway of the Superdome  
280                    along with 30,000 other close friends so I understand her concern."; and,

290    **WHEREAS:**     Although there were live television feeds showing people at the Convention  
300                    Center, when questioned on September 1<sup>st</sup> on CNN, FEMA Director Michael  
310                    Brown said he had no knowledge of the use of the Convention Center as a  
320                    shelter; and,

330    **WHEREAS:**     FEMA Director Michael Brown did not act on the situation in New Orleans and  
340                    on September 30<sup>th</sup> the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security,  
350                    Michael Chertoff enacted the National Response Plan in his place; and,

360    **WHEREAS:**     The death toll from Hurricane Katrina now stands at 1,302 and the damage done  
370                    is anywhere from \$70 to \$130 billion.

380    **THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature condemns the  
390                    lack of action by ex-FEMA Director Michael Brown and applauds the swift  
400                    action of the United States Congress to investigate the failure of federal response  
410                    during hurricane Katrina; and,

420 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Maryland Student Legislature asks that if Michael  
430 Brown is found criminally responsible for the lack of action during hurricane  
440 Katrina that he be given no clemency by the court and serves the maximum  
450 penalty possible.

460 **MANDATES:** President George W. Bush  
470 Bill Frist, Senate Majority Leader  
480 Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader  
490 Roy Blunt, House Majority Leader  
500 Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader  
510 Senator Joe Lieberman

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