

12-15-98



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS.**

**WHEREAS:** There is ample evidence that the death penalty is applied in a racist manner. In 1990, the U.S. General Accounting Office published a report showing a pattern of evidence of racial disparities in imposition of the death penalty. Nationwide, 82% of those put to death had been convicted of murdering a white person even though people of color are the victims in more than half of all homicides; and

**WHEREAS:** death sentences are reserved for the poor. About 90% of those persons facing capital charges cannot afford their own attorney; and

**WHEREAS:** prisoner appeals have been severely curtailed, increasing the risk of imprisonment and execution of innocent people. Since 1991, the Supreme Court has drastically restricted the rights of death row prisoners to appeal their convictions and death sentences in federal courts, and also drastically limited federal court review of death penalty appeals, as well as cut funding for legal aid to death row prisoners; and

**WHEREAS:** the American Bar Association has concluded that administration of the death penalty is "a haphazard maze of unfair practices with no internal consistency" and has called for a moratorium on executions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Aldermen of the City of New Haven calls on the Governor and our state's General Assembly, and President Clinton, and Congress, to enact and adopt legislation imposing a moratorium on executions at least until this state and the nation implement policies and procedures which ensure that death penalty cases are administered fairly and impartially, without racial bias, and in accordance with basic due process; minimize the risk that innocent persons may be executed; and prevent the execution of mentally retarded persons and persons under the age of 18 at the time of their offenses.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Rowland, the New Haven delegation to the General Assembly, President Clinton, U.S. Senators Dodd and Lieberman, and U.S. Representative DeLauro.

*Submitted by Alderman David Moakley and Alderman Anthony Dawson on June 4, 1998 for the Board of Aldermen meeting.*