



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR OSCAR BRAYNON II
33rd District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- March 20, 2012

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Miami Gardens, FL 33169
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Senator Oscar Braynon, II Calls for Legislative Hearings Concerning Trayvon Martin Shooting

MIAMI, FL – Senator Oscar Braynon, II has requested that Senate President Haridopolos look into the Stand Your Ground law implicated in the shooting death of 17 year-old Trayvon Martin who was a resident of Senate District 33.

The law states that individuals are able to protect themselves using force and even deadly force if there is reasonable believe that it is necessary to do so to prevent death or serious bodily harm to himself or another. Senator Braynon is calling for a study of how the law has been implemented and used by law enforcement, state attorneys, defense lawyers and public defenders.

“This law was never intended to be a blanket of protection for community vigilantes who think that they can bypass law enforcement instructions and shoot anyone they see fit. We know that racial profiling exists. We know how racial profiling goes. It shouldn’t be that, if you feel intimidated by someone, you can pull a gun on someone and shoot them? That’s not the kind of law we need.”

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REPLY TO:

- 606 NW 183rd Street, Miami Gardens, Florida 33169 (305) 654-7150 FAX: (305) 654-7154
- 213 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5116

Senate’s Website: www.flsenate.gov

MIKE HARIDOPOLOS
President of the Senate

MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT
President Pro Tempore



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SENATOR OSCAR BRAYNON II

33rd District

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Mike Haridopolos
President, The Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear President Haridopolos:

In respect to the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford last month, I respectfully ask that this legislative body set forth action.

It is my opinion that this Legislature needs to take a closer look at the current law involving the claim of self defense under the "stand-your-ground" provisions of Florida Statue Chapter 776. I would like to suggest that the Senate establish a Select Committee to conduct an interim study of how F. S 776.013, has been implemented and used by law enforcement agencies in their investigations of homicide cases involving the claim of self defense under the "stand-your-ground" provisions of Chapter 776, F. S.; how state attorneys have been investigating and filing on such cases; how public defenders and other criminal defense attorneys have used this statute and how courts have been ruling on such cases to provide clarification of existing law.

The ultimate goal of such process is to decrease the number of incidents like that of Trayvon's and discourage more individuals from deciding to become vigilantes resulting in more lives lost.

I would like to thank you in advance for your immediate attention in this matter of community safety and human rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar Braynon II".

Senator Oscar Braynon, II
District 33

Cc Senator Don Gaetz, President Designate

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President of the Senate

MICHAEL S. "MIKE" BENNETT
President Pro Tempore