

May 26, 1991

Dear Friend:

We are outraged at the pattern of racist behavior which has become all too frequent in our Boston City Council chambers. Last Thursday there was a disgraceful concerted attack against Counselor Charles Yancy by three white male Boston public servants (sic), James Kelly, Albert O'Neil, and Donald Murray. This attack was a deliberate and conscious act whose purpose was to legitimize any and all blatantly racist acts by high public officials, giving an unconcealed message that such acts will be tolerated for all who would do likewise.

If racists can, with immunity, openly and brazenly attack an African-American city counselor in the counsel chambers, then none of us are safe anywhere, and there is an open invitation for racist, sexist, neo-fascist hoodlums to destroy all the democratic and human rights we have struggled so hard to achieve.

We call on your support to join our campaign to rapidly demonstrate that our sense of outrage is widely shared in the community. We are including a petition which we hope you can reproduce and circulate. A press conference will be held at Boston City Hall at noon on Wednesday, June 5, at which time we will publicly present the signed petitions to City Council President Christopher Iannela.

As many participants as possible are needed for the press conference. It is important to show that people of all colors are concerned, not just those who are the direct victims of this type of racist persecution. If you are interested in helping in any way, including speaking at the press conference, please call us at 536-5970.

Final note:

The emergency character of the petition campaign necessitates independent action by all who participate, and in particular, finding a way to make sure that as many signed petitions as possible are brought to the press conference to achieve a maximum effect.

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Assaults in the Boston City Council chambers
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