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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHIES ON THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF JUNE 17, 2015,
IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Introduced By: Senators Metts, Paiva Weed, Algieri, Raptakis, and Lombardo

Date Introduced: June 18, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the unspeakable
2 tragedy that took the lives of six women and three men in a place intended to comfort and uplift,
3 in the beautiful City of Charleston, South Carolina; and

4 WHEREAS, During the evening hours of Wednesday, June 17th, a young white gunman
5 opened fired at his fellow worshipers at the conclusion of a church Bible study meeting he was
6 attending at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historic African-American
7 church; and

8 WHEREAS, As news of the horrific event made its way through the media, the entire
9 country looked on, empathizing with the plight of these individuals and their families, and trying
10 desperately to understand how these nightmarish hate crimes continue to plague our country; and

11 WHEREAS, Ultimately, this profoundly heartrending and senseless shooting stole the
12 life and future of the church's pastor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was a married father of two
13 and a very well respected South Carolina State Senator. His sister and seven others attending the
14 services were also slain; and

15 WHEREAS, To the parents who face the unnatural act of burying their children, to the
16 husbands and wives who are forever separated from their spouses, to the children who have lost
17 their mother or father, and to a community that has lost nine noble friends, know that the citizens
18 of Rhode Island, and indeed millions across the country, mourn with you; and

19 WHEREAS, These nine individuals enriched the lives of all who knew them and will be

1 dearly missed. The memory of their lives will live on in the memories of this country and in the
2 hearts of everyone fortunate enough to have known them; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby offers our deepest sympathy and prayers to the families and friends of the nine victims of
5 this tragic and senseless killing. We furthermore join the people of the world who stand united in
6 the condemnation of such heinous acts of hatred and prejudice; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Joseph P. Riley Jr., Mayor of
9 Charleston, South Carolina.

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