

## **RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MIAMI-DADE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- *Passed by the Social Justice Committee 7 to 0 (with 2 who didn't vote) on April 15, 2017*
- *Submitted for consideration to the Issues Committee on April 17, 2017*
- *Brought to floor for consideration at the Miami-Dade DEC General Meeting on April 26, 2017*

### **Miami-Dade DEC Urges Long-time State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle To Resign In Wake Of Refusal To Prosecute Darren Rainey's Killers**

The Miami-Dade DEC strongly condemns the State Attorney's Office stalled and incomplete investigation of Darren Rainey's death, and therefore urges Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle to resign from office if she cannot pursue justice for all victims of crime, including the most vulnerable.

The Miami-Dade DEC strongly condemns the State Attorney Office's decision not to bring charges against the officers that locked Mr. Rainey in a hot shower for two hours resulting in his death, and the jail's supervisors who failed to report the crime.

This follows a pattern over Rundle's 24-year tenure as Miami-Dade's elected State Attorney, in which she has repeatedly refused to hold law enforcement officials accountable for on-duty killings.

In 2012, Darren Rainey, an African American prisoner with a long history of serious mental illness, was housed in the inpatient unit at Dade Correctional Institution in order to be treated for his mental illness. On the evening of June 23, 2012, correctional officers in the inpatient unit removed Mr. Rainey from his cell, placed him in physical restraints, and escorted him to a locked shower stall.

When the officers finally returned to check on Mr. Rainey, he was found lying in the shower submerged in water, with his skin peeling from his person and per the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's preliminary report "visible trauma. . . throughout [his] body." He was declared dead by first responders soon after. The hot water temperature of the shower registered 160 degrees Fahrenheit two days after Mr. Rainey's death.

Yet Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez-Rundle found that "the evidence does not show that Rainey's well-being was grossly disregarded by the correctional staff."

Mr. Rainey's death shocked the conscience of Miami-Dade County and the entire country.

Katherine Fernandez-Rundle's inaction does not represent the values of the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party supports the dignity of all people, including prisoners in the state's care. Her failure to hold anyone accountable for Mr. Rainey's death places the most vulnerable prisoners at risk for more abuse.