

Nairobi Mayor Finally Resigns In Protest Over White's Death

East Palo Alto Municipal Councilwoman Willia Gray last Wednesday announced her resignation from the council, and she also disavowed her association from any other San Mateo County governmental bodies she may be serving on.

Mrs. Gray's resignation came as no surprise as she hinted earlier this month in a speech at San Francisco State College that she could no longer continue to serve on the council so long as Officer Larry Bringhurst is employed by the county.

Officer Bringhurst allegedly shot and killed a 15-year-old East Menlo Park youth last March 8.

The youth, Gregory White was shot and killed by Sheriff's Deputy Bringhurst while he was fleeing from a car he and another youth

were reported to have stolen. Her resignation becomes effective June 7.

The 35-year-old Nairobi mayor charged the county with an apparent lethargic attitude toward the Gregory White incident.

In her letter which was dated April 21, 1972 but which was only turned in last Wednesday, the mayor noted that it has become morally impossible for her to continue to serve on the council after the Sheriff's office, District Attorney Keith Sorenson and the County Board of Supervisors refused to respond to the killing of Gregory White.

Officer Bringhurst was briefly suspended following the incident but was subsequently reinstated after the grand jury cleared him of wrongdoing.

Members of the East Palo Alto-Belle Haven communities and the East Palo Alto Municipal Council tried ceaselessly to have criminal charges brought against Deputy Bringhurst but it was to no avail.

Gregory White was reported to have been shot in the back with a hollow bullet which shattered on impact breaking the boy's neck. This type of weapon is said to be outlawed by the Geneva Convention for International Warfare.

The county grand jury ruled early this month that Gregory White's death was unfortunate, and the district attorney's office ruled the incident as 'justifiable homicide.'

Meanwhile, a people's tribunal convened in East Palo Alto, and it found Officer Bringhurst guilty of

wrongdoing. The municipal council is presently pushing for the revision of the county's fire arms policy and State Penal Code No. 196 under which Bringhurst was vindicated.

An FBI investigation which may or may not materialize is still underway.

In concluding her letter, Mrs. Gray stated, "I cannot be part of a system that kills a Black kid and fights for the right to continue doing it without penalty."

Besides serving on the municipal council, Mrs. Gray is a member of San Mateo County Urban Renewal Commission.

She, however, pledged to continue to serve the community as part of the struggle which she hoped the community will "some day see in the papers."

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2415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
EAST PALO ALTO, CA 94301



EAST PALO ALTO MAYOR Willia Gray has now decided to relinquish her duty on the Municipal Council as a result of the county's apathetic attitude toward Gregory White Killing.