

## 2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 19

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators TAYLOR and COGGS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** the life and public service of Rev. Lucius Walker.

2             Whereas, Rev. Lucius Walker has been a tireless advocate for civil rights and  
3 a true leader in the cause for social justice and human rights; and

4             Whereas, Rev. Walker received a master's degree in social work in 1964 from  
5 the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and taught there where he was an  
6 outspoken critic of funding and social work approaches, which he felt fostered  
7 dependency in the Milwaukee's Black community; and

8             Whereas, in April 1967, Rev. Walker was arrested in an act of civil disobedience  
9 after he was part of a crowd protesting the mistreatment of a Black youth by a  
10 plainclothes Milwaukee police officer; this led to a trial which included character  
11 testimony on Rev. Walker's behalf from former Mayor Frank Zeidler and future  
12 District Attorney E. Michael McCann; and

13             Whereas, upon moving to Harlem in 1967, he founded the Interreligious  
14 Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), which fosters faith-based

1 progressive organizing and has the distinction of being the only national ecumenical  
2 foundation committed exclusively to the support of community organizing; and

3       Whereas, Rev. Walker has additionally served on the staff of the Milwaukee  
4 Christian Center, was the founding director of the Northcott Neighborhood House,  
5 and Associate General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ; and

6       Whereas, after being shot by American-funded terrorist contras in Nicaragua  
7 in 1988 while leading an IFCO study delegation, Rev. Walker started the Pastors for  
8 Peace Organization to educate people about how United States policies were  
9 affecting impoverished citizens of the Americas; and

10       Whereas, through IFCO/Pastors for Peace, caravans of aid have been  
11 distributed to Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Chiapas, and over 200,000 tons  
12 to Cuba; additionally Rev. Walker has led scores of “Friendship Caravans” to areas  
13 such as Mexico, Haiti, Central America, and post-Katrina New Orleans; and

14       Whereas, in January 1996, Rev. Walker was arrested for attempting to send  
15 computers to hospitals in Cuba, and for the 94 days in which the computers were  
16 seized, he led a “Fast for Life” with four others which resulted in the computers being  
17 delivered in September; and

18       Whereas, the IFCO/Pastors for Peace is also the United States coordinator for  
19 Cuba’s international affirmative action program, which provides free medical school  
20 for up to 500 United States students of color; and

21       Whereas, Rev. Walker is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and peace  
22 awards, including the Gandhi Peace Award, and the Thomas Merton Award, and has  
23 been honored by the Congressional Black Caucus as an outstanding leader in the  
24 struggles against racism and for human rights; and

