

09-0002-5107

MAY 22 2009

RESOLUTION RULES & GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Council, the business-sponsored, public-policy advocacy organization for the nine-county San Francisco Bay region, has called for a California Constitutional Convention to attempt the first systematic reform of our guiding document since 1879; and

WHEREAS, the State's current constitution is the third longest such document in the world (behind those of Alabama and India), and has been described as "the perfect example of what a constitution ought *not* to be" [Wilson and Ebbert, California's Legislature]; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution got this way through nearly a century of passage of countless initiatives that have tied the State's budget into knots and helped bring about the budget crisis that Sacramento currently finds itself trapped in; and

WHEREAS, the hope behind a Constitutional Convention is that the State's fractious groups could come together and agree upon fundamental structural reforms in the way that the State and local government distribute taxes, or how the Legislature passes its budget; and

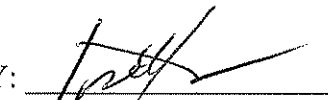
WHEREAS, the current strategy of pursuing individual reforms has not proven effective either due to voter frustration about the dysfunction in the Capitol, such as we witnessed with the May 19 Special election, or due to opposition from one interest group or another; and

WHEREAS, the City went through a similar exercise ten years ago this June, during which several long-discussed reforms were included in a streamlined and revised new Charter, one that voters strongly supported and which replaced a nearly 75-year-old document; and

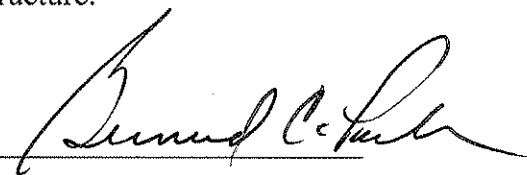
WHEREAS, as we prepare for the State's 150-anniversary, now is the time to reform and repair our State, which has become more famous of late for its problems and not for its tremendous human and natural resources and the creativity and industriousness of its many residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the Bay Area Council's call for a State Constitutional Convention to begin the process of reforming California's finance structure.


PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember
14th District

SECONDED BY:



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CO-PRESENT 
WENDY GREVEL

ORIGINAL