

13-0002-5110

RESOLUTION

AUG 09 2013  
RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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 have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Petersburg, Russia has recently embarked on anti-gay initiatives, including enactment of legislation curbing gay rights and a police crack down on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) activities; last year, St. Petersburg approved a bill that imposes fines for the "promotion of homosexuality;" and

WHEREAS, the St. Petersburg legislation banning "gay propaganda" seeks to restrict freedom of speech as well as such fundamental activities as gay pride festivals and parades; and

WHEREAS, last month the Russian Duma enacted a law that bans the "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" and imposes large fines for providing information about the gay community to minors or holding gay pride rallies; and foreign citizens arrested under the law can be jailed for 14 days and then deported; and

WHEREAS, the new law was approved by the Russian parliament with overwhelming support, reflecting animosity toward gay activism that is widely shared across the political spectrum in Russia; and

WHEREAS, in recent months there have been at least three confirmed killings of Russian citizens because of their sexual orientation and there are numerous incidences of physical abuse against LGBTQ Russian citizens, and there also is legitimate concern about a long-running problem of violence against gays in countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, homosexuality is officially a crime in 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where the death penalty has been proposed as an option for punishment in Uganda and several other nations; and

WHEREAS, Eric Ohena Lembembe, a prominent LGBT rights activist in Cameroon, where homosexuality is punishable by up to five years in prison, was found brutally beaten, burned, and killed in his home last month; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 20 plain-clothed police officers in Myanmar forcefully arrested 10 gay men and transgender women, dragged, kicked and handcuffed them while being taken to the police station for questioning, where they faced further abuse; and

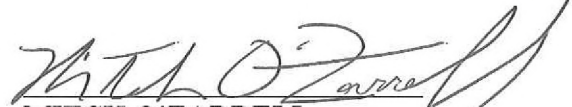
WHEREAS, the United States has a long and proud tradition of providing asylum to those from all over the world who are oppressed and fear for their lives because they are unprotected minorities in their own homelands;

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 2013 and 2014 Federal Legislative Program support for any legislation and / or administrative action that would make it easier for the federal government to expand and grant expedited asylum to refugees who are fleeing persecution in another country because of their sexual / gender orientation or identity, or because they oppose anti-gay legislation, discrimination, or violence against LGBTQ persons.

ORIGINAL

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby calls on the United States government, including President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, to take action to end the persecution, abuse, and murder of gays around the world, including but not limited to making strong, public and international statements condemning such persecution and exerting all necessary pressure on governments to take action.

PRESENTED BY:   
MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11<sup>th</sup> District

  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

AUG 9 2013