

13-0002-531 RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS &amp; 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, as part of a new broad plan to "hub" cases at selected courthouses, the Los Angeles Superior Court has proposed that 13,000 annual Unlawful Detainer (UD) eviction cases now heard at the Van Nuys and Chatsworth Courthouses in the San Fernando Valley be moved to the Santa Monica and Pasadena Courthouses, in response to reductions in funding to trial courts by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 20-25 miles from the Van Nuys Courthouse to Santa Monica, where more than 7,000 cases will be transferred, can translate to more than 5 hours round-trip on public transportation requiring multiple buses – creating an insurmountable barrier to the courts for thousands of poor, low-income, disabled, elderly and limited English speaking City residents, who are most often the UD respondents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed UD changes will inevitably rob the San Fernando Valley, where a large proportion of the City's residents live, of critical judicial resources and will leave thousands of individuals and families in the Valley, especially poor and low-income households, without access to justice for cases where basic human needs are at stake; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the proposal will result in the disruption of family lives, increase homelessness, and result in the loss of countless, irreplaceable units of affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles, including the possible impact on the City's safety-net services for thousands of Valley residents; and

WHEREAS, the communities in the San Fernando Valley to be affected by the transference of these UD's have not been notified, nor given the opportunity for public comment at a public hearing/meeting before any changes are finalized; and

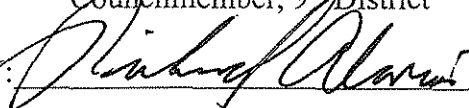
WHEREAS, it is critical that any change in the administrative action which would negatively impact and inequitably burden disadvantaged groups in the City of Los Angeles be prevented and/or rectified in the interest of preventing any unnecessary disruption of family lives and potential increases in homelessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program, OPPOSITION to legislation, administrative action, and/or funding reductions, which would eliminate Unlawful Detainer (eviction) cases/hearings and all associated filings at the three courthouses in the San Fernando Valley, and would transfer said cases to the Santa Monica and Pasadena Courthouses.

PRESENTED BY:


  
JAN PERRY
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

FEB 20 2013