

MAY 17 2013

13-0002-383

RESOLUTION 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, stalking represents one of the most serious forms of harassment directed against women, one in six women will be stalked in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, stalking is often a precursor to violence against women, including assault and murder, in extreme cases; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the dangerous nature of stalking, federal law prohibits individuals convicted of or under a restraining order for stalking or threatening an intimate partner from owning or purchasing a firearm; and

WHEREAS, not all perpetrators of stalking target intimate partners, many target strangers or others who they did not have a lasting relationship with; and

WHEREAS, this limitation creates a loophole that leaves a broad category of victims of stalking unprotected, including those who may have briefly dated their abuser or stalker, or who have never had a relationship with the offender; and

WHEREAS, seven states, including California, prohibit gun ownership by anyone convicted of stalking or under a restraining order for stalking, regardless of their relationship to the victim, and gun homicides of women in these states is 28% lower than the national average; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 1914 (Hahn), The Protecting Victims of Stalking Act, would close this loophole and ensure that all victims of stalking are protected under the law prohibiting stalkers from owning or purchasing firearms; and

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 - 2014 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 1914, The Protecting Victims of Stalking Act, which would prohibit all individuals the subject of a court order for stalking or convicted of stalking from owning or purchasing a firearm, without regard to the victim's relationship to the offender.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY Joe Brun

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