

13-002-587

MAY 22 2013

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, child abuse and neglect are often difficult to detect, as victims are often afraid to report their abuse; and

WHEREAS, in an attempt to address this issue, California has mandated that certain individuals are required to report any signs of abuse or neglect to authorities; and

WHEREAS, these individuals are referred to as mandated reporters, and are individuals who, through the course of their employment, come into regular contact with children, such as teachers, doctors, and social workers; and

WHEREAS, when two or more mandated reporters become aware of child abuse, current law states that only one of the mandated reporters is required to make a report to the authorities; and

WHEREAS, this could result in no report being made, enabling the continued abuse of the victim; and

WHEREAS, AB 790 (Gomez) would require all mandated reporters who become aware of suspected child abuse or neglect to each make a report to the authorities, regardless of whether they are part of a group of mandated reporters that has learned of the suspected abuse or believe that another mandated reporter will contact the authorities; and

WHEREAS, AB 790 would significantly reduce the chance that any suspected abuse or neglect would go unreported;

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 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 790, which would require every mandated reporter who has knowledge of suspected child abuse or neglect to make a report to the authorities, regardless of their possible belief that another mandated reporter is responsible for making the report.

PRESENTED BY Bernard C. Parks
BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY [Signature]

MAY 22 2013
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