

14-0002-562

RESOLUTION

MAY 06 2014

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 government of Brunei, led by the Sultan of Brunei, has recently implemented extremely harsh laws that, in phases, will impose penalties including death by stoning for homosexuality and adultery; the laws would also allow flogging and severing of limbs for theft and other offenses; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has condemned the action and urged the government of Brunei to revisit its penal code; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Hotel Bel-Air, located in Los Angeles, are part of the Dorchester Collection of properties owned by the Brunei Investment Agency, an arm of the Brunei government, which has come under widespread criticism since Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah last week announced the new criminal code based on sharia law; and

WHEREAS, under the first phase of the new legal code, fines and jail terms can be imposed for failing to attend Friday prayers, indecent behavior and pregnancies outside of marriage; a second phase later this year prescribes the severing of limbs and flogging for property crimes; the third phase set for late 2015 will allow for death by stoning for crimes including adultery and gay sex; and

WHEREAS, several groups and prominent public figures have since pledged to boycott the hotels until the Malaysia-adjacent country changes its laws or relinquishes its ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Beverly Hills City Council is expected to pass a resolution condemning the start of the revised laws and the resolution also calls for the Brunei government to sell the hotel;

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 legislation and/or administrative action which condemns the government of Brunei for adopting laws that impose extreme and inhumane penalties including execution by stoning, flogging and severing of limbs and urges the government of Brunei to divest itself of the Beverly Hills Hotel and the Bel Air Hotel.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilman, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: Theresa O'Donnell

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