

# 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, more than 100,000 American veterans who served in the military during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan received less than honorable discharge from the military because of their sexual orientation, often resulting in a loss of benefits to which they should have been entitled, such as veterans' health care and GI bill tuition assistance; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Congress and the President repealed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy to eliminate this institutionalized discrimination and allow all members of the military to serve their country freely and openly, regardless of their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, despite the change in policy, estimates are that nearly 114,000 LGBT service members who were discharged over the years under prior policies continue to suffer from tarnished military records, often preventing them from receiving the veterans' benefits they rightfully earned; and

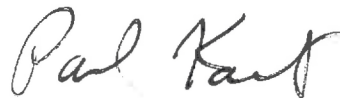
WHEREAS, on July 15, 2015, Senator Brian Schatz and Congressman Mark Pocan introduced companion measures S1766 and HR3068, respectively, proposing the enactment of the "Restore Honor to Service Members Act"; and

WHEREAS, if enacted, the Restore Honor to Service Members Act would streamline the process through which veterans who were unduly discharged solely because of their sexual orientation can have their military record corrected to reflect an honorable discharge, thereby becoming eligible for any veterans' benefits they are due; and

WHEREAS, on numerous occasions, the City of Los Angeles has gone on record in strong support of the legislation and policies that uphold the rights of all individuals and eliminate all forms of discrimination, including sexual orientation, and these two federal measures are consistent with Council Policy.

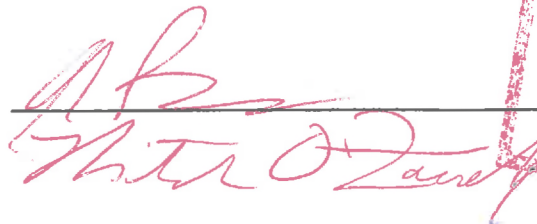
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the "Restore Honor to Service Members Act," HR 3068 (Pocan) and S1766 (Schatz), which would simplify and streamline the administrative process to allow veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges solely because of their sexual orientation to clear their military record and become eligible for all benefits and veterans' services to which they should be entitled.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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