

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATION

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, prescription and non-prescription drugs play a critical role in treating diseases and saving lives; however, unused and expired medications must be properly discarded so that they do not pose a risk to others; an estimated 200 million pounds of unused or expired prescription drugs are stored in medicine cabinets across America; and this situation provides easy access and an opportunity for the abuse of these medications by others for whom they were not intended; and

WHEREAS, in Los Angeles County from 2000 to 2009, there were 8,265 drug-related deaths; 61 percent of those deaths involved a commonly abused prescription or over-the-counter drug; nearly 75 percent of residents who misuse prescription drugs obtain them from relatives or friends; deaths and illnesses caused by the abuse of prescription opioids are of national concern; and the number of deaths each year from prescription opioids is now greater than the deaths from heroin, cocaine, and benzodiazepine drugs combined; and

WHEREAS, it is also very important that needles, syringes, lancets, and other medical products are disposed of properly; while the use and disposal of these items is closely regulated in healthcare facilities, there is no regulatory oversight of their use in the home where these items are routinely placed into the trash; improper disposal practices may result in needlestick and other injuries that can expose others to blood-borne illnesses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV; and

WHEREAS, many residents are unsure of safe disposal methods, and proper disposal services are limited; these situations represent a significant public health problem; but there is an opportunity for Los Angeles County to implement additional disposal options that will protect the health and safety of our residents; and


WHEREAS, currently pending before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is a proposed Extended Producer Responsibility ordinance which would require manufacturers and producers to develop and fund convenient collection services for residents in order to protect public health and assure public safety; and

WHEREAS, safe drug and sharps disposal is an important social need that requires a permanent and sustainable solution with the participation of producers of drugs, needles, syringes and other medical products as well as stakeholders in the community;

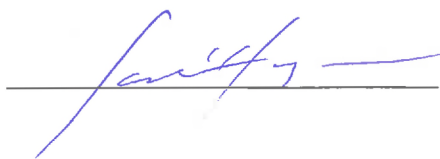
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Program support for the Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance, as further described in the text of this Resolution.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:





FEB 26 2016

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