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RESOLUTION

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, homelessness is an increasingly problematic issue in California, and especially in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, advocates for the homeless have consistently criticized the way local jurisdictions deal with homeless in their areas; and

WHEREAS, SB 608 (Liu), which would prohibit local jurisdictions from enforcing laws against camping on sidewalks, in parks and in vehicles on public streets, was introduced to stop local jurisdictions from enforcing rules that advocates feel target those without homes; and

WHEREAS, this legislation, while well intentioned, would drastically curtail law enforcement's ability to deal with problem homeless populations, in particular those with drug addiction problems and those suffering mental illness; and

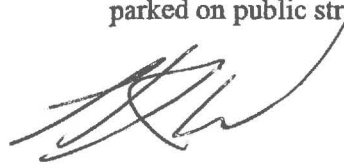
WHEREAS, SB 608 does not balance public safety needs with the needs of the homeless for a place to rest, and instead provides more protections for the homeless than for other citizens; and

WHEREAS, SB 608 would enable individuals prone to crime to camp out in any public area at any time, and make it impossible to deal with this issue unless someone was robbed or attacked; and

WHEREAS, SB 608 does not address the causes of homelessness or offer any solutions to this problem, but instead poses a threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, SB 608 would result in significant costs to local jurisdictions, and is counter to the home-rule principle;

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 OPPOSITION to SB 608 (Liu), the Right to Rest Act, which would prevent local jurisdictions from enforcing laws against camping on sidewalks, in parks and in vehicles parked on public streets.



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

MAR 18 2015

SECONDED BY Arthur O'Connell

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