

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, a plan to link the cities of Amsterdam and Tel Aviv as twin towns was canceled Thursday after pro-Palestinian groups pressured the Dutch capital's mayor into backtracking on his proposal; and

WHEREAS, Amsterdam Mayor Eberhard Van der Laan, who attended Tel Aviv's annual gay pride parade earlier this month, had expressed on several occasions his admiration of the White City, its tolerance toward the LGBTQ community and its booming startup scene; and

WHEREAS, after announcing his intention to tighten connections between the two cities, the Mayor came under a firestorm of criticism from Palestinian activists; and

WHEREAS, this compromise proposal failed to ease tensions, and on Thursday the Mayor announced he was revoking the proposal; and

WHEREAS, anti-Semitic attacks are on the rise 71% in Holland in 2014 and it is important to foster positive relationships and to not succumb to hate behavior in that the rise in anti-Semitism in Amsterdam and elsewhere in Europe has been, in part, a response to events in the Middle East and that twinning Amsterdam with Tel Aviv would be a powerful message against hatred and anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has been a Sister City of Eilat, Israel since April 1959 and we share many of the same issues surrounding resources, drought, renewables, clean technologies, and clean water; and

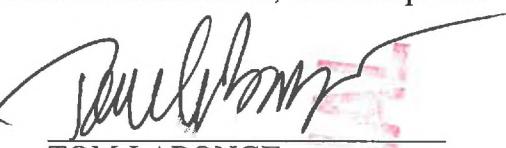
WHEREAS, both Los Angeles and Eilat have an educated work force, incubate innovation at the local level and have much to gain by working together in a manner which has already been advanced at the State level; and

WHEREAS, in that the City of Los Angeles is already progressing with the development of innovative technologies, collaboration with Israel is just a smart way of addressing similar environmental and technological issues;

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 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action which would encourage Mayor Eberhard Van der Laan of Amsterdam, Netherlands to initiate a Sister City relationship with Tel Aviv, Israel to foster the exchange of ideas, the currency of innovation, between Israeli companies, Amsterdam business and education communities, and non-profits for the benefit of the City of Amsterdam.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilman, 3rd District


TOM LABONGE
Councilman, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

June 30, 2015
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