

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, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), often referred to as drones, have become more popular with hobbyists over recent years; and

WHEREAS, as the number of UAS have increased, so too have the uses people find for them; and

WHEREAS, recently, firefighters have reported seeing UAS flying over forest fires across the state; and

WHEREAS, UAS being operated over forest fires pose a threat to the safety of aircrews of manned firefighting aircraft, as a collision in midair with an UAS can cause a helicopter or air tanker to crash; and

WHEREAS, due to this threat to firefighter safety, fire departments across the state have been forced to stop or postpone air drops on fires, severely hampering fire suppression efforts; and

WHEREAS, SB 167 (Gaines) would address this public safety issue by making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$200 and no more than \$2,000 to operate an UAS in a way that interferes with fire suppression activities; and

WHEREAS, in addition, an individual who knowingly or recklessly interferes with fire suppression efforts could be imprisoned for up to six months in county jail, assessed a fine of \$5,000, or both imprisoned and a fined; and

WHEREAS, SB 167 would ensure that firefighters are able to perform their duties without the additional safety concerns caused by the presence of UAS flying over fires;

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 SB 167 (Gaines), which would make it a misdemeanor to use an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) in a way that interferes with the lawful efforts of a firefighter to extinguish a fire.

PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

PRESENTED BY: 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District


AUG 5 2015

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL