

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, valid eyewitness identifications, through the use of lineups with persons or photographs, are an important piece of evidence for solving crimes and securing rightful convictions; and

WHEREAS, eyewitness misidentification has played a role in every wrongful conviction overturned by DNA evidence in California; and

WHEREAS, eyewitness misidentification does not merely lead to wrongful convictions of innocent persons, it also damages public safety by allowing the real perpetrator to remain undetected and to harm others; and

WHEREAS, thirty years of peer-reviewed research has demonstrated that the systematic use of evidence-based practices, including blind administration of identification, selecting lineup participants that do not make the suspect noticeably stand out, and eliciting a statement of confidence from the eyewitness immediately after an identification, can greatly improve the accuracy of the identifications; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based procedures have been endorsed by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, the National Academy of Sciences, the United States Department of Justice and the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 923 (Wiener) would require law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial entities to adopt regulations for conducting photo lineups and live lineups with eyewitnesses that meet minimum requirements designed to ensure reliability and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, uniform eyewitness identification procedures would make justice consistent throughout the state, improving public safety and trust in the justice system;

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 2017 - 2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 923 (Wiener), which would require law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial entities to adopt regulations for conducting photo lineups and live lineups with eyewitnesses.

PRESENTED BY: 

MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL