

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, In 2003, the state established the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, which finds that law enforcement agencies have an obligation to victims of sexual assault in the proper handling, retention and timely DNA testing of rape kit evidence and other crime scene evidence; and

WHEREAS, under current law, law enforcement and crime labs are encouraged to process sexual assault forensic evidence within a specified time frame; and

WHEREAS, while law enforcement and crime labs are encouraged to process this type of evidence in a timely manner, this is not always the case; and

WHEREAS, only a small number of law enforcement agencies and crime labs process sexual assault evidence kits within the encouraged time frame; and

WHEREAS, SB 1449 (Leyva) would amend current law in order to require law enforcement agencies and crime labs to handle and process sexual assault evidence kits within specified time frames; and

WHEREAS, SB 1449 would require law enforcement to transfer rape kits to a crime lab within 20 days and require those labs to process this evidence within 120 days or transfer it to another lab to be processed within the allotted time frame; and

WHEREAS, SB 1449 would ensure that victims of sexual assault are provided justice, and that all evidence in their cases is appropriately processed in a timely manner;

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 1449 (Leyva), which would require law enforcement agencies to either submit sexual assault forensic evidence to a crime lab or ensure a rapid turnaround DNA program is in place, and require crime labs to either process or transmit the evidence to another crime lab for processing within existing specified timeframes.

PRESENTED BY: 
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

JUN 29 2018

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