

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, the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is charged with enforcing the Violence Against Women Act; and

WHEREAS, recently, the Trump Administration quietly changed the definition of 'domestic violence' on the OVW website; and

WHEREAS, the new definition is focused on the criminal aspect of domestic violence and is substantially more limited than the previous definition used by the Obama Administration; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence does not just include criminal physical abuse and almost always includes other harms, such as sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse and psychological abuse; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence relationships rarely begin with physical violence, but rather with emotional and psychological abuse that escalate to physical violence as an abuser's ability to exert control over a victim increases; and

WHEREAS, all aspects of domestic violence should be addressed by the OVW, in order to end domestic violence and protect victims from harm; and

WHEREAS, the City should condemn the Trump Administration's change and oppose any changes to the definition of domestic violence which would ignore other types of domestic abuse;

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 2019 - 2020 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to any administrative action and/or legislation that would narrow the definition of domestic violence to only felony or misdemeanor crimes.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Karetz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

Nury Martinez
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

ORIGINAL

FEB 01 2019

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SECONDED BY: [Signature]