

RESOLUTION

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, there have been 23 fatalities of Thoroughbred horses, with as-yet unclear causes, at Santa Anita Park since December 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Motion 19-2408 (Barger), approved on April 9, 2019, directs the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer advocate to the California Horse Racing Board for a thorough analysis of the recent horse fatalities at Santa Anita Park; and

WHEREAS, many people connected with Santa Anita Park believe that the winter rains caused the soil to become too soft, which led to horse deaths, while others connected with the Park's ownership group argue that standards for veterinary treatment need to be updated; and

WHEREAS, in response to these deaths, the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) conducted an evaluation of track conditions in February 2019, deeming the track conditions suitable for horse racing; and

WHEREAS, several deaths occurred following the CHRB's determination that the track was ready, which led to CHRB disallowing the use of race-day medications, without conclusive evidence that race-day medications are a significant causal factor in the increased deaths; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles and other cities within Los Angeles County have implemented a number of progressive animal welfare policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, April 5, the CHRB postponed a meeting that was scheduled to discuss the possibility of suspending races at Santa Anita Park for time being; and

WHEREAS, horse racing at Santa Anita Park may continue resulting in deaths if action is not taken soon to discover the primary cause of the recent surge in horse fatalities;

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 into its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the action of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors relative to Motion 19-2408 (Barger), which directs the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer to work with the County's Department of Animal Care and Control to draft and send a five-signature letter to the California Horse Racing Board advocating for a thorough analysis of horse fatalities at Santa Anita Park, including updated standards, if appropriate.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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APR 16 2019



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