

JUL 15 2009

09-0002-S147

RESOLUTION RULES & GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, overly aggressive paparazzi pose a real public safety risk not only to the individuals being targeted for photographs or recordings but also to the surrounding general public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles, as the entertainment capital of the world, is home to a large number of celebrities and is therefore particularly susceptible to the dangerous behavior of some paparazzi; and

WHEREAS, while First Amendment protections granted to news gatherers must be defended and upheld, the government also has a duty to protect public safety; and

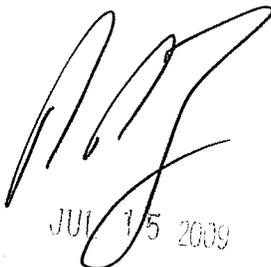
WHEREAS, individuals have personal safety interests that are routinely violated by aggressive photographers and videographers who persistently follow, chase, and physically harass them in order to obtain images for commercial sale; and

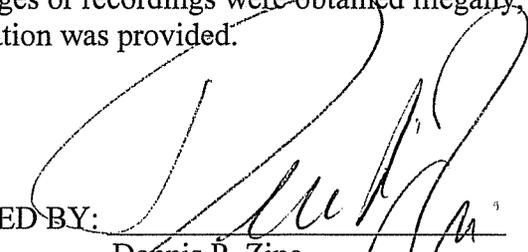
WHEREAS, the aggressive behavior of some paparazzi often reaches the point that it creates a reasonable fear of bodily injury; and

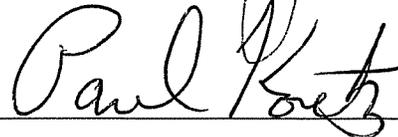
WHEREAS, while physical trespass onto private property is already illegal, advanced technological tools such as powerful telephoto lenses and microphones have enabled photographers and videographers to effectively invade private areas that would otherwise be impossible to intrude upon without trespassing; and

WHEREAS, AB 524, introduced by California State Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, would allow government prosecutors and private individuals to seek civil fines against people who obtain and then sell, transmit, publish, broadcast, or otherwise use for a commercial purpose any image or recording of people engaged in personal or familial activity that was obtained in a manner in violation of existing state law prohibiting constructive invasion of privacy;

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 2009-2010 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 524, which would allow civil fines of up to \$50,000 for the taking and selling of images or recordings of people engaged in personal or familial activity, with actual knowledge that the images or recordings were obtained illegally, and if any compensation, consideration, or remuneration was provided.


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PRESENTED BY: 
Dennis P. Zine
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL