

13-0002-S129

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

TO CITY CLERK FOR DEPOSIT ON NEXT BUSINESS DAY TO BE POSTED

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, hit-and-run collisions are a significant issue in the City of Los Angeles, resulting in the serious injury or death of scores of pedestrians and cyclists each year; and

WHEREAS, under current law, penalties for hit-and-run incidents are not significant enough to act as an effective deterrent against fleeing the scene after a collision; and

WHEREAS, hit-and-run investigations are impeded by the current statute of limitations, which limits prosecution to three years from the date of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the overuse of the civil compromise has proven problematic in efforts to convict individuals for hit-and-runs, as almost half of hit-and-run collisions are settled through the use of civil compromise against the wishes of prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, to address these issues, the City of Los Angeles should support or sponsor legislation that would limit the use of civil compromise, extend the statute of limitations, and increase penalties for individuals who commit a hit-and-run; and

WHEREAS, legislation addressing hit-and-run collisions should also include severe penalties for those who flee the scene of a traffic collision, including the possible hold or forfeiture of their vehicle and automatic license consequences; and

WHEREAS, increased penalties for those that commit hit-and-runs is the best way to combat this problem, and would increase public safety;

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 2013 - 2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for or SPONSORSHIP of legislation which would limit the use of civil compromise, extend the statute of limitations in incidents where a hit-and-run causes a fatal or severe injury, and increase the penalties for individuals who commit a hit-and-run, including the possible hold or forfeiture of vehicles involved in hit-and-runs and automatic license penalties.



PRESENTED BY


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY



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