

13-0002-539

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, illegal drugs and drug use continue to be a significant problem in the community, and pose a significant threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, current law dictates that possession of a hard drug such as heroin or cocaine be charged as a felony, in order to preserve and protect the safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, these hard drugs are particularly dangerous, and efforts to split so-called "non-violent" drug possession cases from other drug possession cases enables users to purchase these hard drugs without serious repercussions; and

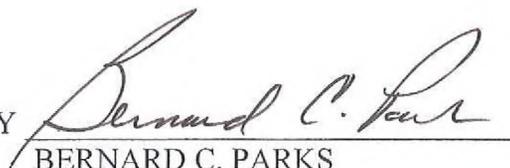
WHEREAS, SB 649 (Leno) would grant prosecutors the ability to charge individuals arrested for non-violent drug possession with a misdemeanor instead of a felony, thereby limiting the number of individuals charged with the possession of a hard drug that end up in jail; and

WHEREAS, counties burdened with overcrowded jails may abuse this leniency, and may adopt policies to charge these types of drug possession cases as misdemeanors in an effort to reduce jail populations; and

WHEREAS, this type of leniency would only serve to reinforce drug usage, which continues to be a scourge in communities throughout Los Angeles;

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 OPPOSITION to SB 649, which would grant prosecutors the ability to file misdemeanor rather than felony charges in drug possession cases where an individual is charged with possession of a hard drug.

PRESENTED BY



BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

MAR 19 2013

SECONDED BY



jwd



ORIGINAL