

RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

13-002-960

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, in November of 2012, the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Superior Court announced a court reduction plan to close a projected shortfall of between \$50 million and \$80 million, which has put eight LA County courts on course for closure by June 30, including West Los Angeles Courthouse, San Pedro Courthouse and the David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center in South LA; and

WHEREAS, not only will the planned closures result in the elimination of 500 court jobs, but it will also facilitate the reassignment of the existing cases to other courts in the City of Los Angeles, which will inevitably create much heavier court traffic at other LA court locations; and

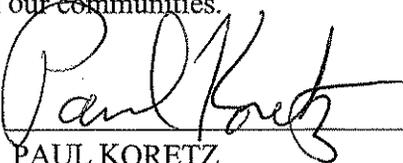
WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has already begun implementation of said plan, without holding public hearings in Los Angeles or any impacted city, and the court administration has not consulted with effected stakeholders or elected officials about their plan; and

WHEREAS, such action is highly problematic given that, since 2008, California's court system has lost 65 percent of its general funding resulting in court closures, reduced hours, increased court fees, and has ultimately impacted equal access to justice for Californians as 67 courtrooms have already been closed and 500 additional court jobs have been lost; and

WHEREAS, concerned community members and courthouse workers have collected thousands of petitions opposing the recent reduction plan as Los Angeles residents raise concerns about longer lines outside the courthouses that remain open, delays in case hearing and trial dates, and force residents to travel longer distances at greater personal cost;

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 legislation and/or administrative action which would urge the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Superior Court to stop the reduction and consolidation process at all courthouses in the City of Los Angeles so that any court reduction plan and any sound alternatives can be properly discussed and vetted in a public forum with hearings and with ample notice at each impacted courthouse in the City of Los Angeles before June 1, 2013, including consultation with the City Council and all public stakeholders, in order to achieve a more sensible approach for streamlining court operations that would minimize the negative impact on our communities.

PRESENTED BY:

  
PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

  
JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

APR 23 2013

cc

