

14-0002-567

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

MAY 27 2014

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 first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, this Spring candidates for all undergraduate student council offices at the University of California, Los Angeles were asked to sign a pledge not to take trips to Israel that are sponsored by the three groups, which the pledge called 'Islamophobic'; and

WHEREAS these groups, American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and Anti-Defamation League(ADL), are well known and reputable non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS the pledge request was part of a larger campaign which has used intimidation as a tactic; and

WHEREAS the pledge request did not concern a policy issue relevant to the University, but rather the legitimacy of the State of Israel - a democratic country that is a U.S. ally; and

WHEREAS, no other groups or issues were singled out in the pledge, belying the singular and divisive anti-Israel focus of their campaign; and

WHEREAS, students who refused to sign the pledge have been the subject of bullying tactics, including extreme social media harassment, intimidation and the filing of specious ethics violations charges ultimately dismissed by the UCLA Judicial Board, but nonetheless created a major distraction for students during midterm week; and

WHEREAS, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said he was "troubled" by the pledge because it "sought to delegitimize educational trips offered by some organizations but not others" and UC President Janet Napolitano said the pledge violated principles of civility and respect; and

WHEREAS, comments by the UCLA and UC President indicate appropriate concern. they do not address serious underlying concerns related to bullying tactics intended to intimidate students with differing viewpoints and to protect students from harassment and personal, vengeful attacks; and

WHEREAS, additional action must be taken by the University of California Board of Regents and the President of the University of California system to ensure that students are protected from bullying and harassment;

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 administrative action by the University of California Board of Regents and President of the University of California to develop policies and institute practices that will be implemented at every University of California campus so that intimidation or harassment of any student not be tolerated and where appropriate referred to the proper law enforcement agencies.

PRESENTED BY:

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

MAY 27 2014

May 23, 2014

ORIGINAL

[Handwritten signatures and initials in blue ink, including a large 'D' and 'Marty Martinez']