

14-0002-561

RESOLUTION

MAY 06 2014
RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, a disturbing and insensitive assignment at a Rialto Middle School has asked students to debate whether the Holocaust really happened and to argue whether the Holocaust was a fictional "political scheme;" and

WHEREAS, the Rialto Unified School District assignment asked eighth-graders to argue whether the Holocaust "was an actual event in history or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth;" and

WHEREAS, news of this assignment has prompted death threats against school officials necessitating increased security; and

WHEREAS, this disturbing assignment, given to the students in April, instructed them to base their argument on "multiple credible sources," and further stated to them that "When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain;" and

WHEREAS, as part of the assignment students were told to "... read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited actual textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. ..."; and

WHEREAS, students were asked to read three articles provided in the assignment, including one that stated, "Even The Diary of Anne Frank is a hoax," and, "It is time we stop sacrificing America's welfare for the sake of Israel and spend our hard-earned dollars on Americans;" and

WHEREAS, the public outcry against this assignment has prompted the Rialto School District to not assign this topic again and to take action to "assure that any references to the Holocaust 'not occurring' will be stricken on any current or future argumentative research assignments;" and

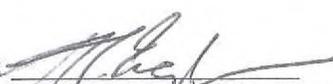
WHEREAS, the Holocaust should be taught in classrooms with sensitivity and profound consideration to the victims who endured the atrocities committed; and

WHEREAS, no students, teachers or parents complained about the assignment; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the United Nations passed a resolution rejecting efforts to deny the Holocaust, efforts "which, by ignoring the historical fact of those terrible events, increase the risk they will be repeated;"

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 sponsorship and support of administrative action by the Rialto Unified School District which would call upon instructors, and administrators, up to and including the superintendent, involved in the Rialto school assignment denying the Holocaust to issue a public apology and to partake in Holocaust sensitivity training at the Simon Weisenthal Center.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilman, 12th District

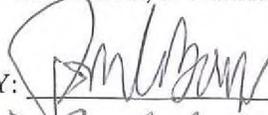

PAUL KORETZ
Councilman, 5th District


BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilman, 3rd District

May 6, 2014
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SECONDED BY:




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