

RESOLUTION **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, In 2003, the state established the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, which finds that law enforcement agencies have an obligation to victims of sexual assault in the proper handling, retention and timely DNA testing of rape kit evidence and other crime scene evidence; and

WHEREAS, under current law, law enforcement and crime labs are encouraged to process sexual assault forensic evidence within a specified time frame; and

WHEREAS, while law enforcement and crime labs are encouraged to process this type of evidence in a timely manner, this is not always the case; and

WHEREAS, across the state, there is a backlog of over 13,000 sexual assault evidence kits awaiting processing and DNA testing; and

WHEREAS, there is no comprehensive data on the number of kits that have been collected, or the reason why kits have not been tested in the time period encouraged under state law; and

WHEREAS, AB 3118 (Chiu) would remedy this issue by requiring local law enforcement agencies, crime labs, and any other agency that has sexual assault evidence kits audit the number of kits they have in evidence, and report that information to the California Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, victims of sexual assault deserve to have their cases handled in a timely manner, and AB 3118 will enable the state to identify the scope of processing the backlog;

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 2017 - 2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 3118 (Chiu), which would require each law enforcement agency, crime lab, medical facility, or any other facility that possesses sexual assault evidence kits to conduct an audit of all kits in their possession and report the findings to the California Department of Justice (DOJ).

PRESENTED BY: 

NURY MARTINEZ  
Councilmember, 6<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

JUN 29 2018

  
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