

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

WHEREAS, due to ongoing discrimination, many transgender Americans experience homelessness at high rates; according to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, nearly 33 percent of transgender people experience homelessness at some point in their life, and this proportion increases to 50 percent for those who are Black, Middle Eastern, multiracial, or are undocumented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, under the Equal Access Rule, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires emergency homeless shelters to place individuals in single-sex or sex-segregated shelters according to their gender identity; and

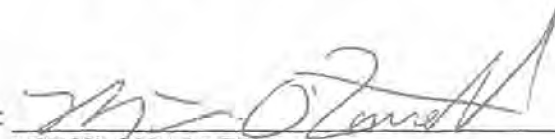
WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, HUD has proposed rescinding the Equal Access Rule; under HUD's proposal, transgender clients would be housed according to their assigned sex at birth; and

WHEREAS, shelter staff would also be required to evaluate a client's biological sex by using height, facial hair, and other physical characteristics; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed rule transgender, women would be forced into sharing emergency housing with men and be at increased risk of assault; as a result, some transgender clients will choose sleeping on the streets rather than risk being housed under these conditions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed HUD rule would create unsafe conditions and barriers to housing and services for transgender people, and would further increase the high rates of homelessness in the transgender community and should be rescinded;

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 2019-20 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to proposed administrative action by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to rescind the Equal Access Rule which allows emergency homeless shelters to house transgender clients according to their gender identity.

PRESENTED BY:   
 MITCH O'FARRELL  
 Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

  
 AUG 4 2020  
 BMR

ORIGINAL