RULES, ELECTIONS, AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, Specialist (SPC) Vanessa Guillen, a 20-year old soldier assigned to the United States Army 3rd Calvary Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas, went missing; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2020 SPC Guillen’s remains were found outside of the base; and

WHEREAS, the soldier believed to be responsible for SPC Guillen’s death committed suicide as he was approached by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, prior to her disappearance, SPC Guillen had told friends and family that she had experienced sexual harassment in her unit, but had not filed a formal complaint due to a fear of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, SPC Guillen’s death was likely linked to this harassment, and despite years of statements by military officials, not much has been done to address misogyny and sexual harassment in the ranks, or to hold soldiers who harass or assault women to account; and

WHEREAS, there are complaints that the Army did not take SPC Guillen’s disappearance seriously until it was brought to the attention of the media and politicians by her family, and that the Army’s investigation into this matter was insufficient until subjected to outside scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, females across the armed services often fail to report sexual harassment or assault, as in many cases they believe their complaints will not be taken seriously by their superiors and that they will be punished for daring to complain about their treatment; and

WHEREAS, SPC Guillen’s death is a tragedy and Congress should ensure that something like this does not happen again, as well as ensure that female soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines are confident that any complaints of sexual harassment or assault will be taken seriously by their chain of command;

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 - 2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation and/or administrative action which would result in a congressional investigation into the murder of Specialist Vanessa Guillen, who disappeared from her duty station at Fort Hood, Texas on April 22, 2020 and whose remains were found on June 30, 2020 outside the base, as well as an investigation in the military’s handling of sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints in general.

CO-PRESENTED BY:

NURY MARTINEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 6th District

PRESENTED BY:

GILBERT A. CEDILLO (verbal)
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 7th District

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