

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

WHEREAS, President Obama signed into law the *West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016*, which ensures that the VA enter into leases that benefit veterans and their families first and foremost, authorized the Department to implement a Master Plan for the West L.A. VA campus with enhanced-use leases;

WHEREAS, prior to this new law, parts of the campus were being rented to various third parties that sometimes provided little to no value for veterans and their families;

WHEREAS, the FBI investigated and convicted officials and contractors who defrauded the West L.A. VA out of more than \$13 million in relation to a parking lot scheme on the campus;

WHEREAS, *Valentini v Shinseki* challenged the misuse of the 387-acre West LA VA campus, which was deeded to the United States in 1888 for the specific purpose of providing a home to disabled veterans, which it did for nearly 80 years, but which now is leased out to private companies;

WHEREAS, the VA has not publicly disclosed how much it is paid for these private deals or where the profits go;

WHEREAS, the case discovered a third party contractor skimmed funds that were meant to go to the VA facility, with millions of dollars stolen from veterans in need;

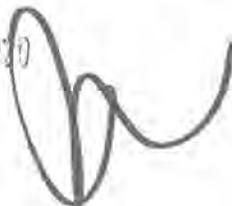
WHEREAS, veterans served by the West LA VA Campus deserve to recoup lost funds in the *Valentini v Shinseki* settlement;

WHEREAS, the settlement allowed the Veterans Affairs Administration to recoup funds for maintenance;

WHEREAS, H.R. 5093, the *West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2019*, introduced by Congressman Ted Lieu (D-CA), will ensure that money recouped from that fraud will go back to serving veterans at the West L.A. campus;

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WHEREAS, H.R. 5093 amends the *West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016* to ensure that the West Los Angeles VA campus is able to recoup much-needed resources in service of our nation's veterans; specifically, H.R. 5093 ensures that any funds secured from settlements resulting from fraud or misuse of VA leases can be used in the renovation and upkeep of campus facilities;

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 H.R. 5093, the *West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2019*.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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