

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, the newly-elected District Attorney has stated that the current statutory ranges for criminal offenses alone, without enhancements, are sufficient to both hold people accountable for their actions and to protect public safety; and he has stated that his office will no longer seek sentencing enhancements; and

WHEREAS, this new policy will apply to a number of serious and violent crimes, including hate crimes, which are defined as crimes committed because of a victim's actual or perceived disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or associated with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes, including violent hate crimes, have increased significantly over recent years across the United States in general, and in Los Angeles County in particular; and

WHEREAS, 2019 saw the highest number of violent hate crimes in Los Angeles in a decade, with white supremacist crimes jumping 38 percent, and those targeting the transgender community increasing by 64 percent from 2018; and

WHEREAS, 47 percent of all hate crimes committed in the County during 2019 targeted African Americans, with the majority of these crimes being violent in nature; and

WHEREAS, hate crimes targeting Jewish Americans have also increased significantly over recent years; and

WHEREAS, ending the use of hate crime enhancements by prosecutors would likely result in a majority of serious hate crimes perpetrated in Los Angeles county being charged as if only the underlying crime mattered, and not the motivation for which the crime was committed; and

WHEREAS, criminal enhancements for hate crimes should be preserved, as to ensure the individuals who victimize an individual based on their background are held to account for their actions;

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 2021 - 2022 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to administrative action by the Los Angeles District Attorney to cease seeking sentencing enhancements in criminal cases UNLESS AMENDED to exempt sentencing enhancements for hate crimes from this policy.

PRESENTED BY: _____

Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

DEC 15 2020

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SECONDED BY: _____

BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District