

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: March 11, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 21-0002-S64
Assignment No: 21-03-0194

SUBJECT: SB 764 (Umberg)

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Blumenfield - Rodriguez) to include in the City's 2021-2022 State Legislative Program support for SB 764 (Umberg) which would require the California Department of Justice to establish a statewide domestic terrorism task force, in order to promote information sharing and to ensure an effective, responsive, and organized joint effort against domestic terrorism.

SUMMARY

On March 3, 2021 a Resolution (Blumenfield – Rodriguez) was introduced in support SB 764, relative to the establishment of a statewide domestic terrorism task force. The Resolution states that domestic terrorism is defined as a criminal act that is intended to intimidate or coerce the population, influence policy by the government through intimidation or affect the conduct of government through mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping that occurs within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. The Resolution further states that the threat posed by domestic terrorism has significantly increased over recent years, as evidenced by the attack on the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021.

The Resolution states SB 764 would address this issue by directing the California Department of Justice to establish a domestic terrorism task force, which will include members of law enforcement and prosecuting agencies from around the state. The Resolution further states that this task force will be responsible for conducting an annual intelligence-based assessment of domestic terrorism in the State, and execute a plan for addressing these activities. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City of Los Angeles to support SB 764 (Umberg).

BACKGROUND

Domestic terrorism is commonly defined as violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature. Over recent years, the threat posed by domestic terrorism has grown significantly, with approximately 1,400 cases reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2020. As evidenced by the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. by right-wing extremists upset about the outcome of the 2020 Presidential election, this threat shows no sign of decreasing.

A key part of combatting domestic terrorism is cooperation between various law enforcement groups and prosecuting agencies who can identify criminal acts and those who commit them, and ensure that information about credible threats is shared widely.

SB 764 would ensure cooperation between various law enforcement agencies across the State by requiring the Department of Justice to establish a statewide domestic terrorism task force focused on this issue. The bill would also require the Attorney General to review any hate crimes and domestic terrorism training programs and resource programs that are provided to law enforcement agencies in the State, and ensure that those programs assist law enforcement personnel to understand, detect, deter, and investigate hate crimes and acts of domestic terrorism.

This bill would ensure a more streamlined approach to a growing issue, and is supported by the Police Department.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department

BILL STATUS

02/19/2021

Introduced.

03/03/2021

Referred to the Senate Committee on Public Safety.



Joshua W. Drake
Analyst

SMT:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (Blumenfield - Rodriguez)

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, domestic terrorism is defined as a criminal act that is intended to intimidate or coerce the population, influence policy by the government through intimidation or affect the conduct of government through mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping that occurs within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the threat posed by domestic terrorism has significantly increased over recent years, as evidenced by the attack on the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021, which was organized in part by groups intent on overturning the 2020 election results by force; and

WHEREAS, while domestic terror incidents have been increasing and becoming more violent, many law enforcement agencies have not allocated additional resources to the problem, and training on how to identify and address the threat of domestic terrorism is not widespread; and

WHEREAS, SB 764 (Umberg) would address this issue by directing the California Department of Justice to establish a Domestic Terrorism Task Force, which will include members of law enforcement and prosecuting agencies from around the State; and

WHEREAS, this Task Force will be responsible for conducting an annual, intelligence based assessment of domestic terrorism in the State, and execute a plan for addressing these activities; and

WHEREAS, SB 764 would ensure that this issue is given the attention it deserves, and will protect Californians from violent acts perpetrated by individuals seeking to undermine our social and political systems;

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 SUPPORT for SB 764 (Umberg) which would require the California Department of Justice to establish a statewide domestic terrorism task force, in order to promote information sharing and to ensure an effective, responsive, and organized joint effort against domestic terrorism.

PRESENTED BY:



BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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