

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, California law prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender-related appearance and appearance; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, during the beginning of the AIDS/HIV epidemic, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had no method to test blood or plasma for HIV; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the FDA established a donor deferral policy which prohibits blood donation from the MSM (men who have sex with men) population, a term which is defined as any man, regardless of sexual identity, who has had sex at least once with another man since 1977, since this blood was perceived as a threat to the nation's blood supply more so than other individuals'; and

WHEREAS, currently, donated blood from the MSM population is considered more of a threat than all sexually active individuals, individuals who have had tattoos, been diagnosed with treatable sexually transmitted diseases, or have had sexual contact with prostitutes; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross (ARC), along with the American Association for Blood Banks (AABB) and America's Blood Centers (ABC) has requested a reevaluation of current donation deferral policies since there are various methods to test donated blood for HIV and being labeled in the MSM category does not automatically equate to risky sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles region has been a leader in the fight against HIV, with world-class research, educational, and medical services. UCLA was pivotal in early research on the HIV virus. For over 30 years, Los Angeles LGBT Center has been at the forefront of prevention and treatment methods to reduce the spread of HIV among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in Los Angeles.

WHEREAS, On September 20, 2014, the Los Angeles LGBT Center is co-sponsoring a blood drive in West Hollywood to bring attention to the current FDA deferral policy and help save lives; and

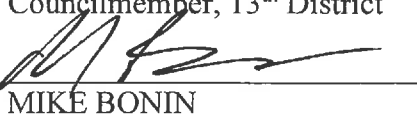
WHEREAS, it would benefit the health of the nation and potentially save lives to allow for blood donations from the MSM population which would increase the number of individuals allowed to donate blood while also increasing the nation's perpetually short blood supply.

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 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP and/or SUPPORT of legislation and/or any administrative action that would that would repeal the Food and Drug Administration's current blood donor policies which prohibits donations made by the MSM population, and encourage a new screening process for potential blood donors that is not based on sexual orientation, or other discriminatory factors.

PRESENTED BY:

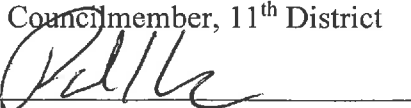


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



SEP 22 2014