

RESOLUTION RULES & GOVERNMENT

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

WHEREAS, last year, taggers sprayed countless walls, fences and other private and public property across Los Angeles with graffiti, costing the City and other government agencies millions in cleanup fees; and

WHEREAS, the new City Budget maintains existing levels of funding for graffiti cleanup, but does not provide for even cost of living increases for graffiti abatement staff, which given the recent increase in the cost of fuel means that contractors will have difficulty keeping up with their workload from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, City contractors removed over 31.7 million square feet of graffiti from over 653,000 locations in Fiscal Year 2007-08 (a 4% and 6% increase over last year's figures respectively); and

WHEREAS, 92,128 requests for graffiti removal were made to 3-1-1 and via the City website during the 2007-08 Fiscal Year, a 12% increase from 2006-07; and

WHEREAS, the City has tried a number of strategies to reduce the prevalence of graffiti, including requiring that businesses that sell aerosol cans lock up this product behind glass and rewards for helping to arrest taggers; and

WHEREAS, a little-known state law was passed in 1990 that allows local jurisdictions to add a 10 cent surcharge to the sale of each aerosol or spray can, plus a five cent fee for large permanent markers, which taggers frequently use to mark their initials on street lights, bus seats and other smaller targets; and

WHEREAS, no municipality has taken advantage of this law since its enactment, including Los Angeles, which went on record supporting the law before it was passed; and


WHEREAS, with three to four million aerosol cans and an untold number of markers sold each year in the City, placing the currently allowable surcharge on these items could add several hundred thousand dollars to the \$7.6 million that the Department of Public Works currently has to spend on its graffiti abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City may wish to seek legislation in Sacramento to increase the maximum allowable surcharge on these products to more significant amounts to allow us to potentially raise even more funds to fight graffiti; and

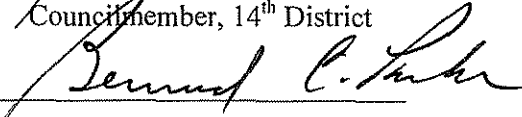
WHEREAS, a portion of any new revenue could be used to purchase digital cameras to catch taggers in the act, provide software to the LAPD to catalogue thousands of graffiti images in order to focus on catching the worst offenders, and help restore and preserve our City's many murals, which are at risk from being defaced by taggers.

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 2009-10 State Legislation Program SUPPORT for SB 138 (Liu), which would amend California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 7287 to increase the allowable surcharge Cities and Counties can ask voters to place on the sale of aerosol cans and permanent markers from ten to fifty cents per aerosol can and from five to twenty five cents per marker, with all new funds to be dedicated to funding existing graffiti abatement programs, new anti-graffiti technologies and mural restoration efforts.

PRESENTED BY: _____


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____



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