

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

APR 20 2007

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, an important area of tension in U.S. - South Korean relations is the requirement that South Korean citizens must obtain visas to visit the United States, an issue brought up in the recent trip by Mayor Villaraigosa and some Members of this Council; and

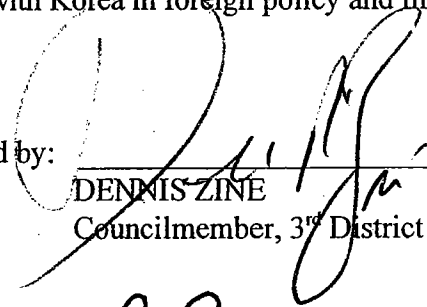
WHEREAS, visa requirements, although a security necessity for the United States, contribute to negative South Korean sentiments towards the United States, especially after a Member of the Korean National Assembly was denied a visa to speak at an American university a few years ago; and

WHEREAS, although the U.S. should not make exceptions or bend the rules, it should recognize that including South Korea in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (which is applied to 27 other countries, including Korea's neighbor Japan) is a priority issue for improving bilateral relations, and to this end the U.S. should support South Korea's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program as soon as it meets the necessary requirements; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Korea are not visiting the United States in as large a number as previously, due in part to the difficulties and time to get a visa, whereas a visa waiver by China was granted for South Koreans just a few years ago.

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 2007-08 Federal Legislative program SUPPORT of administrative and legislative efforts to bring the Republic of Korea into the U.S. Government's Visa Waiver Program so that Korean tourists and business people can more conveniently travel to the United States and enjoy the confidence of this country which has such strong and long-standing ties with Korea in foreign policy and international trade.

Presented by:


DENNIS ZINE
Councilmember, 3rd District

Seconded by:



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