

09-0002-5129

JUN 19 2009

RULES & GOVERNMENT

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WHEREAS, the Federal Poverty Guidelines are an outdated metric, developed in the 1960s, which are out of touch with the reality of life in the 21st Century and was determined by the National Academy of Sciences' Panel on Poverty and Family Assistance to fail to take into account regional cost of living differences, and rather calculate poverty by multiplying the expected costs of feeding a family by a factor of three, when, in fact, today food constitutes less than one-seventh of the average family's budget; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of Americans are finding it hard to make ends meet because of the rising cost of food, gas, job loss, the foreclosure and financial crises, housing costs and the overall economic downturn the country currently faces; and

WHEREAS, there is growing agreement and action taken at the local, municipal, and national level across the United States to tackle the problem of poverty by developing accurate assessments of how much money is needed to house, feed, clothe, transport, educate and otherwise care for American families in the 21st century, including an update of the poverty guidelines in New York City as instituted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2009, U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott introduced the "Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009" (H.R. 2909), the purpose of which is to update the Federal Poverty Guidelines to provide an improved method for measuring the extent to which families in the United States have sufficient income to allow a minimal, socially acceptable, level of consumption that meets their basic physical needs, including food, shelter (including utilities), clothing, and other necessary items; and


WHEREAS, the "Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009" is necessary to better assess the effects of certain policies and programs in reducing the prevalence and depth of poverty, to accurately gauge the level of economic deprivation, and to ensure appropriate targeting of public resources; and

WHEREAS, Congressman McDermott's "Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009" (H.R. 2909) is consistent with the City's position with respect to supporting an update of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (C.F. 07-007-S144); and

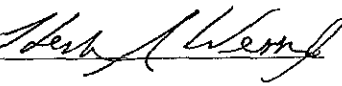
WHEREAS, with updated Federal Poverty Guidelines the Federal Government will have a more realistic understanding of poverty in the United States and will be able to use this information to create legislation to more efficiently and effectively deliver resources to those most in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles, with the concurrence of the Mayor goes on record in SUPPORT of U.S. Congressman McDermott's "Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009" (H.R. 2909) legislation, which will update the Federal Poverty Guidelines to more accurately reflect the economic needs and realities of American families in the 21st Century.

PRESENTED BY:


RICHARD ALARCÓN
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL