

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 or the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Count estimates, at least 30 percent of the homeless individuals in the City of Los Angeles suffer from some form of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, issues of mental illness and mental healthcare are closely intertwined with the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles and there are individuals in such dire need of health and/or mental health care that their lives are in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the California Welfare and Institutions Code section 5000 et seq., defines gravely disabled as “a condition in which a person as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, or shelter”; and

WHEREAS, grave disability can be the basis for the court to require treatment of illnesses that are not being treated voluntarily; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Board Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Mark Ridley-Thomas are proposing a change in definition of gravely disabled as “a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death”; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Chief Executive Officer will be directed to work with the Director of the Department of Mental Health to immediately sponsor legislation that would amend the definition of gravely disabled; and

WHEREAS, because the County is the jurisdiction primarily responsible for the delivery of mental health services, it is in the City's interest to support the effective delivery of these services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-18 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation that would expand the definition of gravely disabled (California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5000 et seq.) to include "medical treatment where the lack or failure of such treatment results in substantial physical harm or death" while maintaining safeguards to protect an individual's rights.

PRESENTED BY: _____

DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

JAN 31 2018

JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: _____