

CITY COUNCIL
URGENCY ITEM

APPROVED
10/20/10

DECEMBER 20, 2010

SUBJECT: COMMENDING U.S. SENATORS BOXER AND FEINSTEIN
AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HENRY WAXMAN FOR
SUPPORT OF SUCCESSFUL REPEAL OF 'DON'T ASK,
DON'T TELL, DON'T PURSUE' POLICY

INITIATED BY: COUNCILMEMBER ABBE LAND
(Corri Planck, Deputy) CP

COUNCILMEMBER JEFFREY PRANG
(Michael Haibach, Deputy) DA

STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:

The City Council will consider commending our Congressional representatives for their support of the successful repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and urge President Obama to sign the legislation and direct the Department of Defense to immediately and effectively implement the repeal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Direct staff to send commendation letters to U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and to U.S. Representative Henry Waxman thanking them for their support of the successful repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.
- 2) Direct staff to send a letter to President Obama, urging a quick signature, as he has promised, and full White House support of the repeal, including an immediate and thorough implementation of the repeal by the Department of Defense and all branches of the United States military.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS:

The West Hollywood City Council first took a position in opposition to the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy on July 19, 1993, the same day President Bill Clinton first announced the policy. (Attachment A)

For the past 17 years, gay and lesbian servicemembers have been forced to lie about who they are in order to serve their country. Many military personnel – in

all branches and at various levels -- have been forced out and/or dishonorably discharged because of witch hunts and a discriminatory policy that deemed some of our nation's best and brightest unfit for service.

Since its inception, the City of West Hollywood has supported full equality for the LGBT community – including the right of qualified personnel to serve openly in the United States military.

EVALUATION:

Federal lobbyist and City staff will continue to monitor the legislation, and its implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:

NA

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020:

This item is consistent with the City's core value of respect and support for people.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Offices of Councilmember Abbe Land, federal lobbyist and Public Information.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

RESOLUTION NO. 1170

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD OPPOSING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY REGARDING GAY AND LESBIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ARMED SERVICES

WHEREAS, our nation is founded on the principle of civil rights for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, a democracy can only survive if these principles are enshrined and adhered to; and

WHEREAS, the stated policy of the Federal Government regarding the service of gays and lesbians in the military flies in the face of these principles; and

WHEREAS, this policy relegates the rights of gay men and lesbians to those of second-class citizens; and

WHEREAS, gay and lesbian citizens have served with great distinction in the armed services, and have made invaluable and rich contributions to our society; and

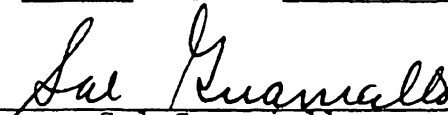
WHEREAS, no one should live under the onus of having to hide the principal elements of their identity and lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood in its legislation and policies works toward increasing civil rights for our citizens; and

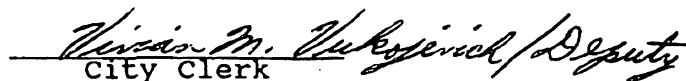
WHEREAS, gay men and lesbian citizens have made extraordinary contributions to West Hollywood, its social, cultural and economic life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood in adopting this resolution calls for continued opposition to the stated policy of discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the military and vows its support for advocacy and legislation which would lift the ban prohibiting the full participation of gays and lesbians in the armed services.

PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED this 19th day of July, 1993.


Sal Guarriello
Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD)

I, MARY TYSON, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 1170 was duly and regularly introduced, approved and adopted by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting of said Council held at the regular meeting place thereof on the 19th day of July, 1993, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: HEILMAN, KORETZ, LAND, LANG.
MAYOR GUARRIELLO.

NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE.


ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 19TH DAY OF JULY,
1993.



MARY TYSON, CITY CLERK

Memo

To: Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager, City Attorney
From: Thomas R. West 
CC:
Date: December 20, 2010
Re: Urgency Item – REPEAL OF “DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL”

Attached please find a proposed Urgency Item to be considered for the agenda of December 20, 2010 entitled:

COMMENDING U.S. SENATORS BOXER AND FEINSTEIN AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HENRY WAXMAN FOR SUPPORT OF SUCCESSFUL REPEAL OF 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL, DON'T PURSUE' POLICY