CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 21, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager for Public Affairs

Subject: Resolution of the City of Beverly Hills Supporting Iranian Civil Liberties

Attachments:
1. Resolution
2. H. Res.560/S.Res. 193
3. City's Legislative Platform 2009-10

INTRODUCTION

Since the June 12, 2009 election in Iran, citizens of Iran have demonstrated the certified election results in favor of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who was proclaimed the official victor.

Following the election, Iranian protestors were confronted with violent responses from the government of Iran and pro-government militias, which have been accused of the deaths of approximately 17 protestors, including a 26-year old woman whose death was documents on video and broadcast internationally.

Furthermore, the Iranian government has restricted the ability of journalists to disseminate stories to the worldwide community, and has restricted the ability of Iranian citizens to communicate or transmit photos or messages electronically.

DISCUSSION

The City of Beverly Hills is home to a large Iranian-American population, of which many residents are exiles from the 1979 Islamic revolution. These and other Iranian-American community members have achieved significant success in the City and have contributed to the community through business, cultural and philanthropic activities.

This Resolution, if approved by the City Council, would offer a strong statement in support of fair and democratic elections, freedom and human rights in Iran. This Resolution would also condemn violence and the repression of independent reporting or communications from Iran.

If approved by the City Council, the City of Beverly Hills would add its voice to other individuals and institutions, including the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the City of Los Angeles and numerous other organizations which support Iranian civil liberties.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council a) add a category to the City's 2009-10 Legislative Platform in support of human rights and civil liberties, and b) approve the Resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

Cheryl Friedling
Approved By

RESOLUTION NO. 09-R-

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS SUPPORTING IRANIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES

WHEREAS, Iran has recently undergone a national election process which has been challenged by mass demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions have recently passed in Congress (House Resolution 560 and Senate Resolution 193) expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, these Congressional Resolutions condemn the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Iranian Government, pro-government militias, and the suppression of independent communication through Internet-based or social networking technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beverly Hills has a large community of residents of Iranian origin;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Beverly Hills a) hereby includes in its 2009-10 Legislative Platform a category affirming support for the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law, and b) that the City Council of Beverly Hills joins with the US Congress, the City of Los Angeles and other organizations in underscoring support for the concepts embodied by House Resolution 560 and Senate Resolution 193.

Adopted:

_____
NANCY KRASNE
Mayor of the City of
Beverly Hills, California

_____
JIMMY DELSHAD
Vice Mayor

_____
BARRY BRUCKER
Councilmember

_____
WILLIAM BRIEN
Councilmember

_____
JOHN MIRISCH
Councilmember

ATTEST:

_____ (SEAL)
BYRON POPE
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

_____
RODERICK J. WOOD, CCM
City Manager

AUTHENTICATED
US GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 193

Expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2009

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. KYL, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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RESOLUTION

Expressing support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law, and for other purposes.

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law;

(2) condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication

through interference with the Internet and cellphones; and

(3) affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

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H. Res. 560

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

June 19, 2009.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for all Iranian citizens who embrace the values of freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law;

(2) condemns the ongoing violence against demonstrators by the Government of Iran and pro-government militias, as well as the ongoing government suppression of independent electronic communication through interference with the Internet and cellphones; and

(3) affirms the universality of individual rights and the importance of democratic and fair elections.

Attest:

Clerk.

City of Beverly Hills
2009 STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Platform Overview

The Legislative Platform contains broad policy statements pertaining to a variety of issues that impact the City of Beverly Hills.

The City's primary legislative focus includes protecting local government control, maintaining local government revenue, pursuing homeland security funding, obtaining funding for environmental sustainability, transportation and infrastructure improvements.

The Legislative Platform provides a policy framework for the City to respond to legislative issues in a timely manner.

Local Control

Advocate legislation that maintains and enhances local control of resources and tools that allow cities to address the needs of constituents locally and within a framework of regional cooperation. Encourage the use of federal and state incentives for local government action rather than mandates (funded or unfunded). Oppose preemption of local authority whether by state or federal legislation or ballot propositions.

Fiscal Initiatives

Maintain the protections provided by Proposition 1A (November 2004 State election), promote stable revenue for local governments to plan for future growth and oppose unfunded State mandates. Pursue funding opportunities for public facilities and services including capital improvement projects, public works projects, library, parks (construction and renovation), recreational and social service facilities.

Direct staff and advocacy resources toward identifying grant and financial resource opportunities, positioning the City to obtain resources for transportation, homeland security, water and sewer projects, and parks and recreation, among others.

Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security

Support efforts, strategies and legislation that promotes emergency preparedness and recovery efforts. Advocate for ICIS (Interagency Communications Interoperability System) participation among jurisdictions and funding for equipment and operations. Support funding opportunities for UNITE local homeland security programs including new technology and equipment (e.g., closed circuit television) that does not supplant other City funding, services or operations. Seek grants, and pilot project/demonstration project funding for City homeland security priorities.

Housing and Land Use
Pursue incentive-based housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward RHNA requirements. Prioritize funding for necessary infrastructure. Emphasize local control related to land use planning.

Transportation
Support state and federal legislation that enhances the safety of the City's streets for automobile and pedestrian traffic, including issues related to photo speed radar enforcement, traffic congestion reduction programs and regional transportation improvements. Initiatives also include funding for Beverly Hills, the extension of the Westside "Subway to the Sea" and the Westside Cities' regional priorities such as the Expo light rail and the Robertson/I-10 intersection.

Environmental Sustainability
Advocate for cost-effective, sustainable, and responsible environmental policy and programs in the areas of energy efficiency, greenhouse gases, climate change, potable water, wastewater, solid waste removal and storm water, among others.

Community Services
Support legislation related to the Internet and filtering in public facilities, funding for literacy and English-as-a-second language programs and protection against censorship and restriction of free speech. Support funding for ADA facility and park upgrades. Promote legislation that provides for increased services to or funding for at-risk populations such as the frail elderly, homeless, disabled and other challenged populations.

Public Health
Continue to promote legislation that enhances the health of the general population, with an emphasis on programs that focus on youth, the elderly and at-risk populations. Monitor opportunities to expand the City's 'Fresh Air Dining' ordinance to other communities or through state legislation.