



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 6, 2014
Item Number: G-4
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Cheryl Friedling, Deputy City Manager for Public Affairs
Subject: RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF BRUNEI'S NEW LAWS THAT IMPOSE HARSH PENALTIES INCLUDING DEATH BY STONING FOR HOMOSEXUALITY AND OTHER BEHAVIORS.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Resolution from 7-22-2010 condemning Iran for punishment by stoning

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of the resolution of the Council of the City of Beverly Hills condemning the government of Brunei's new laws that impose harsh penalties including death by stoning for homosexuality and other behaviors.

INTRODUCTION

Mayor Bosse has requested that the City Council approve a resolution condemning the government of Brunei's laws that impose harsh penalties including death by stoning for homosexuality and other behaviors. This resolution also encourages the government of Brunei to divest itself of The Beverly Hills Hotel.

DISCUSSION

The government of Brunei, led by Hassanal Bolkiah, the Sultan of Brunei, has recently implemented extremely harsh laws that, in phases, will impose penalties including death by stoning for homosexuality and adultery. The laws would also allow flogging and severing limbs for theft and other offenses.

The United Nations has condemned the actions of the government of Brunei and urged Brunei to revisit its penal code. Several prominent individuals have announced a boycott of all hotels owned by the Dorchester Group, including the Beverly Hills Hotel.

In recent years, the Beverly Hills City Council has strongly supported basic human rights such as gay rights, marriage equality and the right of all people to live with dignity and freedom from oppression and discrimination.

The Beverly Hills City Council in 2010 passed a resolution condemning Iran for imposing a penalty of death by stoning for a woman accused of adultery. Her sentence was eventually reduced to 10 years in prison, which was attributed to international pressure.

While recognizing that the Dorchester Collection, The Beverly Hills Hotel's owner, is affiliated with the government of Brunei, the City of Beverly Hills has a productive and positive relationship with the hotel that goes back more than 100 years. The laws in Brunei do not affect the operation of The Beverly Hills Hotel and are no reflection on the hotel's management and staff. The City's actions are intended to contribute to local and international outrage and help reverse policies and laws in Brunei that do not uphold international human rights.

FISCAL IMPACT

The fiscal impact to the City is unknown at this time. Although no analysis has been done, any diminution in business for The Beverly Hills Hotel as a result of ownership actions could result in a reduction in transient occupancy tax revenues for the City.



Cheryl Friedling

Approved By

Attachment 1

RESOLUTION NO. 14-R-_____

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF BRUNEI'S LAWS THAT IMPOSE HARSH
PENALTIES INCLUDING DEATH BY STONING FOR HOMOSEXUALITY AND
OTHER BEHAVIORS**

WHEREAS, the government of Brunei, led by the Sultan of Brunei, has recently implemented extremely harsh laws that, in phases, will impose penalties including death by stoning for homosexuality and adultery. The laws would also allow flogging and severing of limbs for theft and other offenses.

WHEREAS, the United Nations has condemned the action and urged the government of Brunei to revisit its penal code.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Beverly Hills resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City of Beverly Hills strongly condemns the government of Brunei for adopting laws that impose extreme and inhumane penalties including execution by stoning, flogging and severing of limbs.

Section 2. The City of Beverly Hills urges the government of Brunei to divest itself of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and shall cause this resolution and his certification to be entered in the Book of Resolution of the Council of this City.

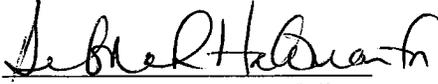
Adopted:

LILI BOSSE
Mayor of the City of
Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:

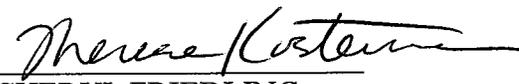
(SEAL)
BYRON POPE
City Clerk

APPROVED AS FORM:



LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS CONTENT:



for CHERYL FRIEDLING
Deputy City Manager/Public Affairs

Attachment 2

RESOLUTION NO. 10-R-12761

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
CONDEMNING IRAN'S PRACTICE OF STONING AND REQUESTING A
HALT TO THE EXECUTION OF SAKINEH MOHAMMADI-ASHTIANI

Amnesty International recently announced that Ms. Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani who was convicted by an Iranian court of adultery in 2006, and received 99 lashes could imminently be executed by stoning.

An international outcry has resulted and the European Union, Britain, France, the United States and other organizations have urged Iranian authorities to stay the execution.

World leaders have condemned stoning as a means of execution as "medieval" and a "blatant disregard for human rights". The United States State Department has termed execution by stoning as "tantamount to torture" and a "barbaric and an abhorrent act".

Government leaders, organizations and prominent individuals have urged the Iranian government to overturn Ms. Ashtiani's unjust sentence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Beverly Hills resolves as follows:

Section 1. The City of Beverly Hills condemns the Iranian government's practice of execution by stoning and requests a halt to the execution of Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani.

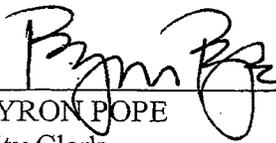
Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and shall cause this resolution and his certification to be entered in the Book of Resolution of the Council of this City.

Adopted: July 22, 2010



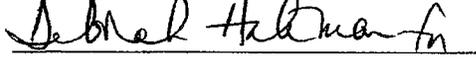
JIMMY DELSHAD
Mayor of the City of
Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:



(SEAL)
BYRON POPE
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS CONTENT:



CHERYL FRIEDLING
Deputy City Manager/Public Affairs