

RULES, ELECTIONS, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, 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, recent protests have swept the City of Los Angeles and the nation, calling for the repair of racial inequities that have pervaded our City and our country for far too long; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty as elected officials to do our part in mending disparities that continue to exist, to condemn past and present actions that perpetuate such inequality, and to support legislation that seeks to help us become a more perfect nation by repairing such disparities; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in Congress is a bill, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act (H.R. 35), which would make lynching a Federal crime; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 35 is named after Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American child who was brutally murdered after a white woman alleged that he flirted with and harassed her, testimony pertaining to such she later recanted; and

WHEREAS, following the abolition of slavery, the crime of lynching plagued the United States as the pinnacle of racial terror; and

WHEREAS, for far too long, countless victims of lynching and their families never received justice, their murderers having escaped prosecution and conviction; and

WHEREAS, seven U.S. presidents have petitioned Congress to pass anti-lynching legislation, none of which were successful in their efforts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has introduced over 200 anti-lynching bills that have yet to pass both houses; and

WHEREAS, polls dating back to 1937 find consistent support among the general public for passing Federal anti-lynching legislation; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code relates to crime and criminal procedure, including but not limited to § 249 which relates to hate crime acts; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631) prohibits interference with, or attempts to injure or intimidate, any person because of his or her race, religion, sex, etc.;

WHEREAS, Merriam-Webster defines lynching as, to “put to death by mob action without legal approval or permission”; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 35 would modify Chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, by adding at the end the following: “§ 250. Lynching. Whoever conspires with another person to violate section 245, 247, or 249 of this title or section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631) shall be punished in the same manner as a completed violation of such section, except that if the maximum term of imprisonment for such completed violation is less than 10 years, the person may be imprisoned for not more than 10 years.”; and

WHEREAS, the codification of such language and inclusion in Federal statute **will** recognize the racial terror that has been effectuated by multiple offenders and groups, finally prohibiting conspiracy to commit these heinous acts, therefore acknowledging the history of lynching in the United States and serving to prohibit its use in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2020-2021 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, which would make lynching a Federal crime.

PRESENTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Koretz (verbal)  
Councilmember, 5th District

CO-PRESENTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Herb Wesson (verbal)  
Councilmember, 10th District

CO-PRESENTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Curren Price (verbal)  
Councilmember, 9th District

SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marqueece Harris-Dawson (verbal)  
Councilmember, 8<sup>th</sup> District