

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; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2023, the United States Supreme Court ruled that affirmative action policies at Harvard College and the University of North Carolina were unconstitutional and violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment; and

WHEREAS, affirmative action refers to policies that ensure equal opportunity and prevent discrimination based on a broad range of identities, including race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, and disability; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy was the first president to link the term “affirmative action” with policies meant to advance racial equality when he issued Executive Order 10925, which included a provision that government contractors “take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, color, or national origin;” and

WHEREAS, in 1968, after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harvard College’s dean of admissions announced a commitment to enrolling a substantially higher number of Black students than in the past, to reflect a student body more representative of American society; and

WHEREAS, affirmative action policies at higher education institutions have increased the diversity of their student bodies by considering an applicant’s race for admission; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, California voters passed Proposition 209 to amend the California Constitution to prohibit discrimination against or the granting of preferential treatment to any individual group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting; and

WHEREAS, rescinding affirmative action policies at higher education institutions will lead to a substantial decrease in representation of students of color, especially at elite schools;

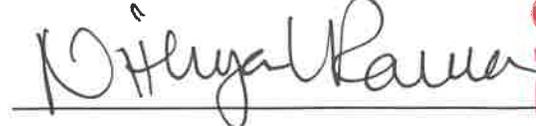
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 Federal Legislative Program sponsorship and support of any legislative and/or administrative action which would counter the effects of the Supreme Court rulings in the cases of *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* and *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina, et al.* and restore the affirmative action protections which were in effect prior to these decisions.

PRESENTED BY:



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

