

13-C
August 8, 2006

Council Meeting: August 8, 2006

Santa Monica, California

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE - MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Councilmember McKeown

Date: August 8, 2006

Request of Councilmember McKeown that the City of Santa Monica join our Westside Cities Council of Governments colleagues in West Hollywood as founding members of the Pro-Choice City Campaign, reaffirming our support of reproductive rights including women's right to choose.

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CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

July 13, 2006

The Honorable Kevin McKeown
City Council
City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Dear Councilmember ~~McKeown~~ *Kevin*,

In 1991, the City of West Hollywood officially declared itself a Pro-Choice City. Earlier this year, the West Hollywood City Council reaffirmed its commitment by approving the new Pro-Choice City Campaign, through which we plan to create a network of local governments across the nation committed to promoting women's health and freedom. We do so as a response to President Bush's recent Supreme Court appointments and other increasing threats to reproductive freedom. It is now more critical than ever to make a unified stand for women's access to reproductive healthcare.

It is our hope that the Pro-Choice City Campaign will serve as a growing show of solidarity, for women everywhere to know that their local governments and communities are committed to upholding their rights.

We're starting small, asking for the support of a few cities like Santa Monica, who have a demonstrated history of support for women's reproductive rights. We would like to have our initial coalition in place before the "official launch" of the Pro-Choice City Campaign, planned for August 28th 2006, coinciding with Women's Equality Day. After the launch, we will begin rapidly expanding our outreach to municipalities across the country.

In order to spread the word, the City will be creating a webpage for the campaign, containing information for pro-choice organizations and individuals, as well as a list of municipalities that have joined the cause.

As part of the Pro-Choice City Campaign, the City Council of West Hollywood will introduce a new resolution reaffirming our status as a Pro-Choice City before the launch in late August. We hope that Santa Monica will join us in standing up and going on record for a woman's right to choose. Enclosed is a copy of the resolution passed by the West Hollywood City Council earlier this year to start the Pro-Choice City Campaign as well as a draft of the new resolution we will introduce in August. Feel free to use these as models for a similar resolution of your own.

Sincerely,

ABBE LAND
Councilmember

Email: ccouncil@weho.org
<http://www.weho.org>



RESOLUTION NO. 06-3339

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN
SUPPORT OF PROTECTING WOMEN'S
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN THE CITY OF WEST
HOLLYWOOD AND RENEWING THE CITY'S
COMMITMENT TO SPREADING AWARENESS OF
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ISSUES THROUGH THE
CREATION OF A PRO-CHOICE CITY CAMPAIGN**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood strongly supports a woman's legal
right to choose; and,**

**WHEREAS, in 1993, the City of West Hollywood affirmed its commitment
to defending the reproductive rights of women by declaring itself a "pro-choice"
city, the first on record in the country; and**

**WHEREAS, recent and pending appointments to the Supreme Court
threaten to curtail women's access to safe and legal abortions in the United
States; and**

**WHEREAS, women's reproductive rights are further threatened by the
potential for state legislation to restrict access to safe, legal abortions; and**

**WHEREAS, women's access to contraceptives are threatened by the
increasing popularity of pharmacist refusal clauses which prevent women from
having their legal prescriptions filled; and**

**WHEREAS, restrictions on access to proper healthcare places an undue
burden on women; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood is committed to the protection and
support of the reproductive health of all women; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood urges other municipalities to
declare themselves "pro choice" and defend women's reproductive rights and
access to healthcare:**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City
of West Hollywood supports the creation of the pro-choice city campaign to ignite
a grass roots effort to mobilize the greater community in the fight to protect
women's reproductive health.**


PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 17th day of January, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	Duran, Guarriello, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, Prang, and Mayor Land
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



ABBE LAND, MAYOR

ATTEST:



THOMAS R. WEST, CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 06-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD REAFFIRMING WEST HOLLYWOOD'S OFFICIAL STATUS AS A PRO-CHOICE CITY

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood is a long-time advocate and supporter of the advancement of women's rights and equality, and in particular the women's reproductive rights and freedom; and

WHEREAS, on November 4th, 1991, the City Council proclaimed West Hollywood a pro-choice city, and since that time the City has prided itself on being one of the first cities to officially express its support for a woman's right to choose; and

WHEREAS, in light of increasing political threats to reproductive freedom, it is now more critical than ever to make a unified nationwide stand for access to reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means creating an environment that is supportive of women, and making it known that the city is a place where women's rights are respected and defended; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means promoting responsible sex education so that both women and men are aware of their reproductive choices and have the tools to make their own private decisions and take charge of their lives; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means ensuring widespread access to a variety of birth control options, so that women and men have the resources to implement the choices that they make; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means encouraging the expansion of all forms of reproductive health care, including prenatal care, gynecological care, education and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive cancers; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means defending the right to choose a legal and safe abortion as a final but critical option for women; part of a comprehensive set of reproductive rights that emphasizes the ability of the individual to make informed decisions from a range of reproductive choices and the ultimate control of the individual over her own body and her own life:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood does hereby reaffirm its longstanding position as pro-choice city, and encourages other cities around the country to join us in voicing official support for reproductive rights.