

RESOLUTION NO. 17-4940

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CONDEMNING CHECHNYA'S OPENING OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR DETENTION OF LGBT PEOPLE AND CALLING ON THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO SANCTION THAT COUNTRY FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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

WHEREAS, over the last several years, and as LGBT people around the world secured new rights and responsibilities, LGBT people seem to have suffered an increase in attacks across Russia and surrounding regions; and

WHEREAS, Russia has been adamantly hostile to LGBT people, repressing any demonstrations and using brutal force against individuals who dared to show their sympathy and support of the LGBT community, or are just lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and

WHEREAS, this animosity and hostility have led to many individuals to flee their homeland and seek asylum abroad, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, an example of the above-referenced intolerance is a bill introduced in 2016 by two members (Ivan Nikitchuk and Nikolai Arefyev) of the Russian Communist Party, which proposed fines of between four and five thousand rubles (US\$53-\$66) for "the public expression of non-traditional sexual relations, manifested in a public demonstration of personal perverted sexual preferences in public places; and

WHEREAS, over the last few days, different reputable news outlets have reported that Chechnya's government has opened up several concentration camps in which LGBT people are being detained and torture due to their sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in a statement by the Russian LGBT Network described the alarming situation: "The Russian LGBT Networks is highly disturbed and concerned about the information on the kidnapping and killing of people in Chechnya because of their sexual orientation. We are also outraged by the reaction of the officials of the Chechen Republic, who in fact justify the killings. No national and/or religious traditions and norms can justify kidnapping or killing of a human being. Any references to "traditions" to justify kidnappings and killings are amoral and criminal"; and

WHEREAS, the recent wave of detentions seems to be part of a broader campaign against LGBT people. According to a report by Human Rights Watch several independent sources have confirmed the atrocious treatment and persecution of LGBT people; and

WHEREAS, the same report states: "It is difficult to overstate just how vulnerable LGBT people are in Chechnya, where homophobia is intense and rampant. LGBT people are in danger not only of persecution by the authorities but also of falling victim to "honor killings" by their own relatives for tarnishing family honor"; and

WHEREAS, West Hollywood has been a welcoming city to refugees and asylum seekers from all parts of the world, particularly of those who have suffered persecution for being LGBT or Jewish in Russia and/or former Soviet Republics; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the City's core values, the Council is advised to strongly condemn the actions of the Chechen government and the deafening silence of the Russian Federation in light of these violations to human rights; and

WHEREAS, the Council is also encouraged to direct staff to work with members of Congress and the Trump administration to pressure the Chechen government and Russia to stop such humiliating and degrading treatment of LGBT people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood strongly condemns the actions of the government of Chechnya against LGBT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood calls on the Trump Administration and the United States Department of State to sanction Chechnya for their inhumane treatment of LGBT people and for violating the human rights of their citizens.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	D'Amico, Duran, Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Meister.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



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LAUREN MEISTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK

