

RESOLUTION

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, the use of unmanned aircraft, often referred to as drones, for surveillance has become increasingly widespread across the United States; and

WHEREAS, this includes the use of some drones designed for military use being operated by Federal agencies under the control of the executive branch; and

WHEREAS, recently it came to light that the Department of Homeland Security flew a Customs and Border Patrol MQ-9 Reaper over the City of Los Angeles during protests against the Trump Administration's immigration policies; and

WHEREAS, these drones are designed for war, and should not be used to surveil residents of American cities engaging in constitutionally protected activities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 4759 (Gomez) seeks to address this issue by prohibiting the use of funds allocated to the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense or any other executive agency to operate certain unnamed aircraft in the United States to conduct surveillance of United States persons engaged in protests or civil disobedience; and

WHEREAS, this bill would specifically apply to the operation of the MQ-9 Reaper, or variants thereof, or any other unmanned aircraft that was developed initially for the Armed Forces to fly at medium altitudes for long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, this bill would also require the President of the United States, on an annual basis, to transmit to Congress a report on the use of covered unmanned aircraft for a novel purpose or a purpose not authorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS, this legislation is necessary to ensure that the Federal Government does not violate the constitutional right of people to assembly and engage in free speech;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025 - 2026 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for H.R. 4759 (Gomez), the Ban Military Drones Spying on Civilians Act, which would prohibit the use of certain unmanned aircraft in the United States to conduct surveillance of United States persons engaged in protests or civil disobedience, and increase congressional oversight of the use of these devices.

PRESENTED BY:

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Councilmember, 1st District

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