

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 291137

ADOPTED ON JAN 11 1999

WHEREAS, the Council of The City of San Diego supports the principle that everyone is entitled to be free from persecution and harassment related to race, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability; and

WHEREAS, current federal law relating to the prosecution of hate crimes requires proof that a crime was committed because of a victim's participation in a federally protected activity; and

WHEREAS, current federal law relating to the prosecution of hate crimes is also limited to crimes committed on the basis of the victim's race, religion or national origin; and

WHEREAS, prosecution of hate crimes on the state level is limited because some states do not have hate crime statutes or the statutes do not include crimes committed on the basis of certain characteristics; and

WHEREAS, 8,759 hate crimes were recorded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation during the year of 1996; and

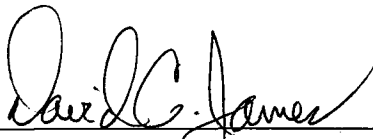
WHEREAS, in June of 1998 James Byrd, Jr. was brutally murdered in Jasper, Texas allegedly on the basis of his race; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1998 Matthew Shepard was assaulted and murdered in Laramie, Wyoming allegedly on the basis of his sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, expanded federal authority to prosecute hate crimes by eliminating the federally protected activity requirement and adding crimes committed on the basis of the victim's gender, sexual orientation, or disability would allow for the prosecution of these types of crimes; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of The City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, calls upon the United States Congress to introduce legislation that expands federal authority to prosecute hate crimes by eliminating the federally protected activity requirement and adding crimes committed on the basis of the victim's gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By 
for Stuart H. Swett
Deputy City Attorney

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