

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 305007

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE JUN 29 2009

WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States Congress passed and the President signed legislation to address the issue of gays, lesbians and bisexuals serving in the Armed Forces of the United States that subsequently became known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell;” and

WHEREAS, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is the only federal law in the United States that mandates the firing of any member of the Armed Forces who is openly lesbian, gay or bisexual; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, over 12,000 service members have been discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” statute including over 1,000 mission critical specialties such as translators, linguists, doctors, nurses, mechanics, infantrymen, and intelligence specialists; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law has exceeded \$360 million over the past decade at a time when there are severe personnel shortages across all service branches which has forced the Pentagon to lower admission standards to allow convicted felons and individuals who would otherwise not meet the military’s normal physical fitness standards; and

WHEREAS, allied forces serving alongside American forces in combat situations such as Australia, Israel, Great Britain, and Canada have all successfully permitted open service whilst the United States and Turkey remain the only two original members of NATO that still maintain a ban; and

WHEREAS, over a dozen studies throughout the years have concluded that lifting the ban will not harm military readiness; and as recently as July 2008 polls have shown 75% of the American public supports allowing open service-up from just 44% in 1993; and

WHEREAS, today there are at least 65,000 gay, lesbian and bisexual Americans serving on active duty and over 1,000,000 gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans throughout the United States; and

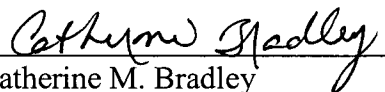
WHEREAS, San Diego is home to the largest concentration of active duty personnel, and veterans in the world with a significant number of those personnel being gay, lesbian or bisexual; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego has strong legacy of supporting and protecting the rights of its gay citizens but remains the only major city in California that has yet to formally support repeal of the ban; and

WHEREAS, Representative Ellen Tauscher of California has re-introduced "The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1283)" which would replace the current law and policy with a policy of non-discrimination in our Armed Forces; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City supports and honors the service of all members of the nation's armed forces including that of our gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens by supporting the passage of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1283) which repeals the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law replacing it with a non-discrimination policy.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By 
Catherine M. Bradley
Chief Deputy City Attorney

CMB:amt
06/08/09
Or.Dept:Rules
R-2009-1248

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of JUN 23 2009.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By Sara Richardson
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 6-29-09
(date)

JSL
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor