RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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, silicosis is a progressive and incurable occupational lung disease caused by inhaling respirable crystalline silica dust, and workers involved in cutting, grinding, polishing, or installing artificial stone products face significantly elevated exposure risks with no effective cure once the disease takes hold; and

WHEREAS, California has documented an alarming and accelerating increase in silicosis cases in recent years, with Latino men disproportionately bearing the burden of this preventable disease — approximately 98 percent of California workers diagnosed with silicosis associated with artificial stone fabrication are Latino men, and those who have died from the disease had an average age of under 50 years old; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is home to a large concentration of stone fabrication and installation workers, many of whom are residents of the communities served by this Council, and the City has a direct interest in protecting the health, safety, and economic security of these workers and their families; and

WHEREAS, California has taken a series of meaningful steps to address this crisis, including a December 2023 Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standard, a permanent silica standard adopted in February 2025, and Senate Bill 20, signed into law in October 2025, which classifies silicosis as a serious illness and improves coordination between Cal/OSHA and the California Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2026, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board unanimously voted to grant a petition initiating the process to prohibit the fabrication and installation of artificial stone products containing more than 1% crystalline silica — an action that reflects the Board's recognition that existing protections remain insufficient to fully address the severe hazard this material poses to workers; and

WHEREAS, the Standards Board's unanimous action further directed Cal/OSHA to prepare the required finding of emergency to support expedited rulemaking and to convene scientific and advisory committees to evaluate the feasibility and implications of potential new worker protections, representing a critical and time-sensitive step toward preventing future illnesses and deaths; and

WHEREAS, Cal/OSHA's Silica Special Emphasis Program has already issued more than 900 citations totaling approximately $1.9 million in proposed penalties and conducted 465 on-site consultations reaching over 27,000 employees, demonstrating the scale of noncompliance and the urgent need for stronger and enforceable standards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has a long-standing commitment to worker safety, environmental justice, and the protection of immigrant and Latino workers who form an essential part of the City's workforce and community, and the Council affirms that no worker should face a death sentence from a preventable occupational disease;

JUN 23 2026

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2026–2027 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board's advancement of emergency rulemaking and permanent regulatory action to prohibit the fabrication and installation of artificial stone products containing more than 1% crystalline silica, and urges Cal/OSHA to move expeditiously through the emergency regulatory process to protect workers from the ongoing and life-threatening silicosis crisis in California.

PRESENTED BY:

EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

IMEDLA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: