

Legislation Docket

City Champs Tournament

Presented By

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Urban Debate League**



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A RESOLUTION TO HOLD CONGRESS ACCOUNTABLE**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

1 WHEREAS, For the purposes of this Resolution, a government shutdown shall be considered
2 to be in effect if there is a lapse in appropriations for any Federal agency or
3 department as a result of failure to enact a regular appropriations bill or
4 continuing resolution; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives earn
6 \$174,000 annually, or more if they hold leadership positions; and

7 WHEREAS, A Roll Call analysis calculated the median net worth of a U.S. lawmaker to be
8 about five times that of the average American household; and

9 WHEREAS, During government shutdowns, hundreds of thousands of federal employees
10 and federal contractors work without pay; and

11 WHEREAS, In a gesture of solidarity with those going without pay, some lawmakers choose
12 to refuse or donate their pay as long as the government is shut down; and

13 WHEREAS, Working without pay could make lawmakers less likely to drag out shutdowns
14 for extended periods of time, and more likely to cooperate with their peers to
15 prevent shutdowns in the first place; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, In the event of a government shutdown, U.S. lawmakers, as employees of the
17 federal government and representatives of constituents that may be working
18 without pay, should also forego being paid in solidarity with other federal
19 employees and as an incentive to collaborate more across party lines to prevent
20 government shutdowns.

A RESOLUTION TO LIMIT MILITARY SPENDING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION ON MEDIA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense (DoD), branches of the military, and
 2 federal agencies like the FBI and CIA have entertainment liaisons; and
 3 WHEREAS, These liaisons lend financial support (subsidized by taxpayer dollars), advice,
 4 locations, and military logos and equipment to media production companies;
 5 and
 6 WHEREAS, Some media that have received support from the DoD or other federal agencies
 7 include films (*Transformers*, *Iron Man*) and television shows (*24*, *Homeland*);
 8 and
 9 WHEREAS, In exchange for financial support and resources, these liaisons will ask for script
 10 changes or otherwise ask for favorable, pro-military and pro-American-interest
 11 depictions in said media; and
 12 WHEREAS, Films and television shows are big parts of American culture, and for many
 13 Americans can be very influential on the way they view the world; now,
 14 therefore, be it
 15 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon Congress to pass and the
 16 President to sign legislation that will disallow federal agencies from exercising
 17 political speech in the form money or resources exchanged for positive media
 18 representation.

A RESOLUTION TO BAN THE SALE OF PRODUCTS TESTED ON ANIMALS**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:**

1 WHEREAS, A number of countries have banned animal testing (e.g. India, Brazil, South
2 Korea), and in 2018 California became the first state in the U.S. to ban the sale
3 of products tested on animals; and

4 WHEREAS, Animal testing for cosmetic and commercial purposes can pose risks to the
5 animals' health, cause them physical distress, and/or lead to them being
6 euthanized after tests are exhausted; and

7 WHEREAS, Science has now advanced to the point where there are often viable alternatives
8 to animal testing; and

9 WHEREAS, Human beings are in many ways dissimilar from animals, even those considered
10 to be evolutionarily similar like non-human primates; and

11 WHEREAS, By banning the sale of products tested on animals in New York, companies that
12 use animal testing might be more likely to implement "cruelty-free" practices;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State
15 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation banning the sale of
16 products tested on animals.

A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, Prior to the mid-20th century, public schools in America would often start the
2 day with prayer; and

3 WHEREAS, Following two landmark Supreme Court cases (*Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and
4 *Abington School District v. Schempp* (1963)), school-sponsored prayer was
5 determined to be unconstitutional; and

6 WHEREAS, Some religions, like Islam, ask members to pray as often as five times a day at
7 specific intervals; and

8 WHEREAS, As the United States becomes more diverse in culture and religion, it likewise
9 becomes more necessary to rethink past Supreme Court decisions and
10 accommodate a diversity of customs; and

11 WHEREAS, Students should not be forced to choose between their religion and their
12 education; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls on Congress to propose an
14 amendment to Establishment Clause of the First Amendment ("Congress shall
15 make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibits the free
16 exercise thereof...") such that American public schools allow prayer and
17 accommodate those students who require time to do so.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

B. The New York City Council encourages the New York Board of Elections to allow online voting as an alternative to the current voting systems for New York's local elections.

SECTION 2. Online voting shall be defined as a New York State Government online voting service that allows for the use of electronic means to aid or complete the process of casting and counting votes. The online voting service will use blockchain technology.

SECTION 3. The New York Board of Elections, Election Assistance Commission, and the Federal Election Commission shall be combinedly responsible for creating a council to secure online voting. The council shall be responsible for protection from fraud and identity theft. One (1) million dollars shall be allocated for the development of this service.

SECTION 4. This bill will be effective immediately.

SECTION 5. All laws in conflict with this legislation are hereby declared null and void.

A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN VENEZUELA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, In January, Venezuela’s National Assembly head Juan Guaido declared himself
2 interim president of Venezuela, with socialist incumbent Nicolas Maduro
3 holding firm against the possibility of being ousted; and

4 WHEREAS, Russia and China have both urged the United States to avoid intervening in
5 Venezuela’s political issues; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States officially recognized Juan Guaido as interim president, with
7 President Trump promising that those who support Maduro will “lose
8 everything;” and

9 WHEREAS, In response, Maduro severed diplomatic relations with the U.S.; and

10 WHEREAS, Venezuela’s military leaders largely stand in solidarity with the Maduro
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, President Trump is poised to pressure the Venezuelan military into abandoning
13 support of Maduro; and

14 WHEREAS, Military intervention in Venezuela is potentially disastrous for them,
15 neighboring Colombia, and for the United States, and the United States’ pattern
16 of instilling democracy in other countries is consistently risky and often ruinous;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the U.S. Senate to oppose
19 and for the President to retract his position on military intervention in
20 Venezuela.

**A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT THE DIVERSION OF RESOURCES FROM FUNDS THAT SUPPORT U.S. HUD-
VASH FUNDING**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs
2 Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program offers vouchers to veterans
3 experiencing homelessness and supportive services to assist them and their
4 families in finding and sustaining permanent housing; and
- 5 WHEREAS, On December 1, 2017, then-VA Secretary David Shulkin announced a decision to
6 redirect HUD-VASH funding to local VA hospitals, effectively ending the
7 program; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Approximately 45 percent of homeless veterans experience mental illness and
9 70 percent experience substance abuse disorder, with many experiencing both;
10 and
- 11 WHEREAS, HUD-VASH has significantly decreased the number of veterans experiencing
12 homelessness since 2010, issuing over 87,000 housing vouchers nationwide as
13 of April 2017 and reducing veterans homelessness by nearly 47 percent,
14 according to HUD; now, therefore, be it
- 15 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon Congress to pass and the
16 President to sign legislation that shall prohibit the diversion of resources from
17 dedicated funds that assist veterans experiencing homelessness with obtaining
18 permanent housing.

A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO LEGALLY SELL THEIR OWN ORGANS, BLOOD, AND TISSUE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, A citizen of sound mind is wholly in control of their own body and its contents,
2 and should be able to sell that which belongs to them if they choose to do so;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, According to the American Transplant Foundation, 20 people die each day due
5 to a scarcity of organs available for transplant; and
6 WHEREAS, Organ donation already exists and is accepted as medical practice in this
7 country; and
8 WHEREAS, In introducing a way for people to profit off of their organs, scarcity in organs
9 will be reduced significantly; and
10 WHEREAS, Organ transplants are not necessarily fatal, as some organs, tissue, blood, and
11 bone marrow can all be taken from living donors; and
12 WHEREAS, Millions of Americans live in poverty and could benefit from a legal and
13 regulated system of organ, tissue, and blood sales; now, therefore, be it
14 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass and
15 the President to sign legislation that would legalize the sale of human organs,
16 tissue, and blood, as well as create a division of the U.S. Department of Health
17 and Human Services (HHS) to regulate these sales.

A RESOLUTION TO BAN ADVERTISING

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, Advertising is a medium through which companies can promote their products,
2 services, or events in a public manner, with the intention of persuading
3 consumers to buy, solicit, or attend; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2007, the New York Times reported that the average person sees up to 5,000
5 ads per day; with the ever-increasing prevalence of media and internet in
6 people’s daily lives, that number has surely risen; and

7 WHEREAS, Effective advertising is that which connects to consumers’ values, culture, sense
8 of self, or even takes advantage of their insecurities; and

9 WHEREAS, Advertising manipulates American consumers into buying things they might not
10 need; and

11 WHEREAS, The ubiquitous nature of advertising has made American culture into consumer
12 culture, where few things are exempt from commodification and capitalism;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the U.S. Congress to pass,
15 and the President to sign, legislation that would ban advertising in the United
16 States.

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A 911 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ACT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

1 WHEREAS, Several well-publicized incidents of biased reports to 911 have drawn national
2 attention and widespread condemnation; and

3 WHEREAS, In many such incidents, Black people and other people of color have endured
4 police intrusions simply for behaving in ways that would be insignificant but for
5 the color of their skin (e.g. barbequing, golfing too slowly, napping); and

6 WHEREAS, The 911 Anti-Discrimination Act would not only provide the opportunity for a
7 meaningful response to these incidents, it would also discourage others from
8 misusing emergency response resources for racist and biased means; and

9 WHEREAS, When law enforcement entities respond to these biased calls, they
10 inadvertently enforce the racial biases of private citizens, converting those
11 biases into governmental discrimination; and

12 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the 911 Anti-Discrimination Act, the motivation for false reporting
13 would include a perception or belief about an individual's race, color, national
14 origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation; now, therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State
17 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.9149 in relation to falsely
18 reporting an incident as a specified offense for the purpose of hate crimes, also
19 known as the 911 Anti-Discrimination Act.