

DRAFT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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December 4, 2014

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
Councilmen Gil Cedillo (CD1) and Jose Huizar (CD14)
Other members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Koretz-O'Farrell motion #13-1374

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood. While the Prop 37 failed in California, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously supported it in October of 2012 as well as SB 1381 (Evans) which was under consideration this spring in the California Senate which did not pass out of the Senate.

Although it is not feasible for the city to enact such a requirement on its own, one step in that direction would be to make the City of Los Angeles a GMO-free Zone with regard to the sale, distribution and growth of GMO plants and seeds by prohibiting the growth of genetically modified crops within the city of Los Angeles.

In a democracy, everyone has the right to make choices. So long as companies keep the content of the foods we eat secret, we cannot make choices. So long as they keep selling GMO-modified seeds and plants in our stores without identifying them as such, we cannot make choices. And even if we can avoid purchasing them ourselves, so long as they are sold in our city, it is far too easy for them to contaminate our own plants and gardens.

Furthermore, an unregulated herbicide-resistant GMO grass is due to come on the market shortly and will certainly be marketed aggressively to golf courses and parks across the country. Once such a GMO grass establishes itself in Los Angeles, it would spread all too easily into our wetlands, wilderness and river areas as well as our own lawns and, like all herbicide-resistant products, would require significantly increased use of chemicals at considerable cost to the city and our fragile ecosystem. Additionally, it would require substantially more water which is unsustainable in our current drought conditions.

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council therefore strongly endorses motion #13-1374 by Paul Koretz and Mitch O'Farrell and urges all Councilmembers to support and pass this ordinance prohibiting the growth of any and all GMO crops within city limits.

Sincerely,

Monica Alcaraz, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council