



# City of West Hollywood

City Hall  
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA  
90069-6216  
(323) 848-6400

Contact

**Joshua Schare**  
Public Information Officer  
(323) 848-6431  
jschare@weho.org

**Lisa Marie Belsanti**  
Public Information Manager  
(323) 848-6378  
lbelsanti@weho.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **West Hollywood City Council Passes Death with Dignity Resolution**

*City Council Voted Unanimously on Resolution  
Urging the L.A. County District Attorney to  
Deprioritize Death with Dignity Prosecutions*

*Resolution is the First of Its Kind in the State*

**WEST HOLLYWOOD, November 18, 2014** – The West Hollywood City Council, at its regular meeting last night on Monday, November 17, 2014, unanimously approved a Resolution that urges the Los Angeles County District Attorney to deprioritize prosecution of physicians and family members supporting death with dignity decisions of terminally ill, mentally competent individuals. This is the first Resolution of its kind to be passed in California. The decision comes just over two weeks after 29-year-old Brittany Maynard, a former California resident, chose to end her life with the support of her family and assistance of her physicians.

“During the height of the AIDS epidemic in West Hollywood we learned the painful lesson that sometimes death with dignity is far more humane and moral than an agonizing painful existence,” said Councilmember John J. Duran, in response to the passing of the Resolution. A significant number of West Hollywood’s residents live with HIV or AIDS and the City of West Hollywood is recognized as a strong advocate for self-determination.

Currently five states — New Mexico, Vermont, Montana, Oregon and Washington — have passed Death with Dignity policies to expand end-of-life options for competent, terminally ill patients. Maynard moved to Oregon after being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer early this year. In the months

leading up to her death, she had become a prominent voice in the Death with Dignity debate and an outspoken advocate.

If the L.A. County District Attorney were to deprioritize the prosecution of physicians and family members supporting Death with Dignity options, it would ensure terminally ill individuals the right to preserve their dignity and manage their medications as they see fit through end of life. The L.A. County District Attorney's recognition of the medical practice of aid in dying would also grant physicians medical legitimacy in honoring the wishes of their patients to have a dignified end of life.

For more information, please contact Ian Matthew Owens, Deputy to Councilmember John J. Duran, at (323) 848-6460. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, please call TTY (323) 848-6496.

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