

**1. A RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES CALLING FOR AN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT OF 1996 TO REQUIRE SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES TO REMOVE MATERIALS WHICH PROMOTE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES**

Source: City of Cerritos

Concurrence of five or more cities/city officials

Cities: City of Hawaiian Gardens, City of Lakewood, City of Ontario, City of Rancho Cucamonga, City of Roseville

Referred to: Governance, Transparency and Labor Relations and Public Safety Policy Committees

**WHEREAS**, local law enforcement agencies seek to protect their communities' residents, businesses, and property owners from crime; and

**WHEREAS**, increasingly, criminals use social media platforms to post notices of places, dates and times for their followers to meet to commit crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 currently provides online platforms (including social media platforms) immunity from civil liability based on third-party content and for the removal of content; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 25 years since Section 230's enactment, online platforms no longer function simply as forums for the posting of third-party content but rather use sophisticated algorithms to promote content and to connect users; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice, in its June 2020 report, "Section 230 — Nurturing Innovation or Fostering Unaccountability?," concluded the expansive interpretation courts have given Section 230 has left online platforms immune from a wide array of illicit activity on their services, with little transparency or accountability, noting it "makes little sense" to immunize from civil liability an online platform that purposefully facilitates or solicits third-party content or activity that violates federal criminal law; and

**WHEREAS**, current court precedent interpreting Section 230 also precludes state and local jurisdictions from enforcing criminal laws against such online platforms that, while not actually performing unlawful activities, facilitate them; and

**WHEREAS**, amendment of Section 230 is necessary to clarify that online platforms are not immune from civil liability for promoting criminal activities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** at the League General Assembly, assembled at the League Annual Conference on October 9, 2020 in Long Beach, California, that the League calls upon the U.S. Congress to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to condition immunity from civil liability on the following:

1. Online platforms must establish and implement a reasonable program to identify and take down content which solicits criminal activity; and
2. Online platforms must provide to law enforcement information which will assist in the identification and apprehension of persons who use the services of the platform to solicit and to engage in criminal activity; and
3. An online platform that willfully or negligently fails in either of these duties is not immune from enforcement of state and local laws which impose criminal or civil liability for such failure.