STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:
The City Council will consider adopting a resolution condemning the unlawful execution of Navid Afkari by the Iranian government and opposing the government’s attempts to silence political protesters.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
1) Adopt Resolution No. 20-____, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CONDEMNING THE UNLAWFUL EXECUTION OF NAVID AFKARI BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT”.
2) Send copies of the signed resolution to President Donald J. Trump, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, Representative Adam Schiff, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:
The Iranian Government executed Navid Afkari, a 27-year-old wrestler accused of murder, on Saturday, September 12. Mr. Afkari was accused of fatally stabbing a water-utility worker amid unrest in his home city, Shiraz, a center of the antigovernment protests that took place in Iran in 2018. The charges against Mr. Afkari had drawn widespread skepticism in Iran and abroad. Mr. Afkari took part in the antigovernment protests and many government critics claimed he was being used as an example to silence dissent. Mr. Afkari and two of his brothers were arrested after the protests. Both of his brothers have been sentenced to decades in prison.

Mr. Afkari was a national champion in wrestling, a sport that has a long history and is hugely popular in Iran. Prior to his execution, international sports groups tried to bring attention to Mr. Afkari’s case, campaigning for his clemency. The International Olympic Committee had made direct appeals to the Supreme Leader and to the President of Iran last week to ask for mercy for Mr. Afkari. The National Olympic Committee of Iran, United World Wrestling, National Iranian Wrestling Federation, as well as other organizations
and individual athletes from around the world made similar pleas. The World Players Association said he had been unjustly targeted for taking part in the protests and called for Iran’s expulsion from world sport if it went ahead with the execution. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also called for an international intervention and a new trial.

Once the case gained more global attention, Mr. Afkari was moved from the general ward to an undisclosed location. A forced confession was aired on state television by Iranian government in a video to justify his death sentence. In an audiotape smuggled from prison, Mr. Afkari says he was tortured until he falsely confessed to the crime. According to Amnesty International, the Iranian authorities have a long-standing record of working with state television to produce and broadcast coerced statements obtained from victims under torture and other ill-treatment.

Mr. Afkari’s legal team had been preparing a last-ditch motion for judicial review of the case. His lawyers said Iranian officials carried out the execution without giving their client a final visit with his family, which they said was dictated by law. Mr. Afkari’s family was notified after the execution took place. Human rights organizations report that the Iranian government has a history of carrying out executions in secret after transferring people out of their regular places of detention and refusing to provide their families information about their fate and whereabouts. A month ago, there were similar reports of two political prisoners being quietly put to death and their families were notified afterward.

The unlawful execution of Mr. Afkari is cruel and must be condemned. In 2018, the City Council adopted a resolution in support of the protests in Iran. The arrest, torture, and execution of peaceful protesters or activists is unlawful and demonstrates a disregard for law and international human rights. The proposed resolution condemns the unlawful execution of Mr. Afkari and re-affirms the City’s support for the Iranian people’s right to peacefully protest without fear of retaliation or punishment. The City of West Hollywood supports peaceful democratic institutions both at home and abroad and strongly condemns the attempts by the Iranian government to silence protesters. This resolution is consistent with the City’s longstanding history of advocating for healthy, thriving democracies around the world.

CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-11: Community Education.
- OSP-12: Actively Participate in Regional Issues.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood
General Plan:

- HS-1: Maintain and pursue humane social policies and social services that address the needs of the community.

**EVALUATION PROCESSES:**

N/A

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:**

N/A

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

N/A

**OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:**

CITY MANAGER’S DEPARTMENT / COMMUNITY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIVISION

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None at this time.

**RESOLUTION:**

Resolution No. 20-_____, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CONDEMNING THE UNLAWFUL EXECUTION OF NAVID AFKARI BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT”.
RESOLUTION NO. 20-____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD CONDEMNING THE UNLAWFUL EXECUTION OF NAVID AFKARI BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, The Iranian Government executed Navid Afkari, a 27-year-old wrestler accused of murder, on Saturday, September 12; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Afkari was accused of fatally stabbing a water-utility worker amid unrest in his home city, Shiraz, a center of the antigovernment protests that took place in Iran in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Afkari took part in the antigovernment protests and the charges against him had drawn widespread skepticism in Iran and abroad as many people claimed he was being used as an example to silence dissent; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Afkari – a national champion in wrestling in Iran where the sport is hugely popular – gained the support from international sports groups who were trying to bring attention to his case and campaign for his clemency; and,

WHEREAS, the World Players Association said he had been unjustly targeted for taking part in the protests and called for Iran’s expulsion from world sport if it went ahead with the execution. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch also called for an international intervention and a new trial; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Afkari says he was tortured until he falsely confessed to the crime, a practice that the Iranian authorities have a long-standing record of according to human rights organizations; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Afkari’s lawyers said Iranian officials carried out the execution without notifying the family ahead of time nor giving their client a final visit with his family; and,

WHEREAS, the unlawful execution of Mr. Afkari is cruel and must be condemned. The arrest, torture, and execution of peaceful protesters or activists is unlawful and demonstrates a disregard for law and international human rights; and,

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood supports the Iranian people’s right to peacefully protest without fear of retaliation or punishment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby condemns the unlawful execution of Navid Afkari by the Iranian government and opposes the government’s attempts to silence protesters.
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ day of _____, 20__. 

______________________________________________
MAYOR

ATTEST:

______________________________________________
City Clerk