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RESOLUTION NO. 6223

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO REPEAL THE DESIGNATION OF SERPENTINE, THE HOST OF ASBESTOS, AS THE OFFICIAL STATE ROCK, IN SUPPORT OF WORLD ERADICATION OF ASBESTOS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AS URGED BY THE ASBESTOS DISEASE AWARENESS ORGANIZATION

WHEREAS, Asbestos is the name given to a group of chrysotile fibrous minerals found naturally in the environment, primarily in the rock Serpentine; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos was discovered more than two thousand years ago by the Ancient Greeks. The Greeks gave it its name, Asbestos, which means "inextinguishable".

WHEREAS, Asbestos's wide use in the United States did not occur until the Industrial Revolution during the late Eighteen Hundreds, as insulation for steam pipes, turbines, boilers, kilns, ovens, and other high-temperature products; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos has since been mined, used for and deployed in a broad range of products, materials and applications including but not exclusive to construction, insulation, shipyards and many other industries; and

WHEREAS, Asbestos comprises thousands of products and industrial applications. It's in our children's schools, on the lawns on which they play, its in our cars, airplanes, trains, in the buildings in which we work every day, and in the products and very fabric of the furniture we keep in our homes; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, in an effort to promote asbestos business, jobs and the economy in the State of California, the Governor and State Legislature designated the asbestos host rock, Serpentine, as California's Official State Rock; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding Serpentine's practical and economic virtues, the medical and science fields have long noted the causal link between human disease and death and the exposure to asbestos; and


WHEREAS, At the turn of the twentieth century, researchers began to notice a large number of deaths and lung problems in asbestos mining towns. The first case of asbestos-related disease was discussed in medical literature in 1907; In 1917 and 1918, it was observed by several studies in the United States that asbestos workers were dying unnaturally young. The first diagnosis of asbestosis was made in 1924. In the 1930s major medical journals began to publish articles that linked asbestos to cancer. By 1955, lung cancer was recognized as causally related to asbestos exposure; By early 1960, it was established that fatal mesothelioma cancer is causally related to asbestos exposure; and

WHEREAS, Laws were passed in England in 1931 to increase ventilation and to make asbestosis an excusable work-related disease. It would take the United States ten more years to make these steps; and

WHEREAS, It is now well known that inhalation of and exposure to asbestos fibers can cause asbestosis, lung and gastrointestinal cancers, and an aggressive cancer called mesothelioma that has a six-twelve month life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, The human health harms from Asbestos continue because Asbestos is easily airborne. Once air-borne, asbestos is able to carry hundreds of miles away from its source - right into human airways. Its fibers are microscopic and easily lodged in the lungs; and

WHEREAS, Recent national and international events underscore the importance of banning the use of asbestos. The World Trade Center catastrophe on September 11th sent large


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TA
City Clerk of the City of Manhattan Beach

amounts of asbestos into our breathing air and deposited into our waters. The Indian Ocean tsunami in 2009 destroyed building structures sending large amounts of asbestos into the air; and

WHEREAS, asbestos diseases have a long latency period from initial exposure to development of disease from 10 to 50 years; are difficult to diagnose as it mimics other ailments; difficult to treat; and often incurable and frequently deadly; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that there are approximately 125 million people in the world who are exposed to asbestos in the workplace. At least 90,000 people die each year globally from asbestos-related diseases caused from occupational exposure. In addition, there are several thousand more people infected from non-work related exposure. Inhaling or swallowing asbestos fibers can cause permanent and irreversible damage to vital organs; and

WHEREAS, In the United States of America, more than 10,000 people die each year from exposure to asbestos and the number is rising. It is projected that in the next decade asbestos diseases will kill the lives of at least 100,000 Americans alone; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, the United States Environmental Protection Agency listed asbestos as a "hazardous air pollutant"; In 1976, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) declared asbestos a human carcinogen; The World Health Organization (WHO) International Labor Organization (ILO), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Acting U.S. Surgeon General currently state that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the dangers to human health caused by asbestos, the United States has not completely banned asbestos in the United States; Moreover, asbestos is widely used in the international World; and

WHEREAS, the State of California ranks among the top five states with the highest recorded number of asbestos-related deaths; and

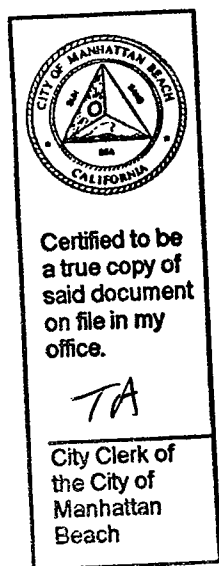
WHEREAS, notwithstanding the deaths suffered by California residents and workers alike, the State continues to designate Serpentine, the host rock for asbestos, as our official State Rock.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY DECLARE, FIND AND DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Manhattan Beach hereby makes the following findings:

1. That the above recitations are true and correct.
2. That the City of Manhattan Beach endorses efforts by the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) to raise asbestos awareness in order to prevent exposure and eliminate asbestos-related human health harms.
3. That the City of Manhattan Beach urges the California Legislature to repeal Government Code Section 425.2 and in so doing remove Serpentine as the official California State Rock.

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.



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PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPED this 20th day of October, 2009.

Ayes: Montgomery, Tell, Powell, Ward and Mayor Cohen.
Noes: None.
Abstain: None.
Absent: None.

/s/ Portia Cohen
Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

/s/ Liza Tamura
City Clerk

	<p>Certified to be a true copy of the original of said document on file in my office.</p>
	<p>City Clerk of the City of Manhattan Beach, California</p>