

West Hollywood's attempt to ban fur loses support and creates

further delays and confusion

On Monday 7 November, for the third time, West Hollywood City Council failed to reach a decision about its proposed fur ban. A new economic impact study must now be conducted at tax payers' expense before the issue can be reviewed again.

There is huge confusion and unease in the community. Neither local business nor local voters are in favour of the ban and questions are now being asked about the propriety of the legislative process followed by the Council.

In the words of one luxury retailer, "Due diligence and studies are done before ordinances are passed...not after", while another commented that the Council's approach has sent a message to the worldwide media that West Hollywood is unfriendly to business.

Online polls conducted in the area show that most voters (78%) are against the ban. Local retailers have proposed a labelling programme coupled with consumer information so that consumers can make their own purchasing decisions. But so far, the council has refused to listen and is facing a strong public outcry against the ban and a barrage of criticism.

"West Hollywood Council have yet again kicked this ban into touch" says Keith Kaplan, Executive Director of the Fur Information Council of America. "It now faces growing objections from residents and retailers".

-ends-