

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

June 18, 2019

Immigrant Heritage Month Outreach and Support

On June 4, 2019, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) declared the month of June as Immigrant Heritage Month to appreciate the accomplishments and contributions immigrants have made to Los Angeles County (County). This continues a tradition that began in June 2014 and has become an annual celebration of our County’s diversity ever since.

The United States of America is a nation of immigrants. Aside from American Indians and Alaska Natives, nearly all Americans trace their roots to a place other than the United States. The impact of generations of immigrants is woven into the fabric of our County. In fact, in the County, immigrants born in a different country comprise thirty-five percent of the population, contribute thirty-six percent of our \$653 billion Gross Domestic Product, account for more than forty percent of the employed workforce, and make up more than half of small business owners. Undeniably,

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immigrants are a vital component of the County's lifeblood, from its economy and culture to its demographics and politics.

If the County itself is to continue to thrive and grow, so must those residents who have come from other countries to make Los Angeles County their home. In understanding this, the Board has taken actions to demonstrate that we are cognizant of the challenges immigrants face, particularly in today's charged political climate. That is why, on January 10, 2017, the Board established the County's first-ever Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) within the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. OIA's mission is to advance the well-being of all immigrants in the County by providing and connecting immigrants with support services to help them in all aspects of their life. During Immigrant Heritage Month, the Board should continue to honor its bold commitment to protect the rights and promote the wellbeing of the County's immigrant population.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that, in support of having proclaimed the month of June as "Immigrant Heritage Month" throughout Los Angeles County, the Board:

1. Direct the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) in the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), in consultation with the Office of the County Counsel, and in collaboration with other affected County departments and non-profit organizations that serve immigrants and their families, to conduct outreach and education for immigrants and their families in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner about wrap-around County and external services available to them, including:

- a. Immigration legal representation and resources for immigrants and their families who may be at risk of removal due to actions against them in immigration court;
 - b. Citizenship workshops and resources for immigrants who are eligible for naturalization;
 - c. Assistance and resources regarding consumer protection; financial empowerment; public, mental, and medical health services; education and mentoring opportunities; minimum wage and employment disputes; and support for small businesses.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer's Office of Countywide Communications, in collaboration with DCBA's Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Graphics Unit of the Executive Office, to develop linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach materials for these efforts, as deemed necessary by OIA.

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