

| Agenda #   | Relate To | Position          | Name                 | Comments  |
|--|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item: |           |                   |                      |   |
| 22.  |           | <b>Favor</b>      | Yessenia L Cux Tizol | <p>My name is Yessenia Cux and I am a resident of Supervisorial District 2. I am writing on behalf of Immigrants are LA (IRLA). I would like to provide comments in support of item #22, Countywide Language Access Policy Recommendation.</p> <p>One in three Los Angeles County residents (a total of 3.6 million), is foreign-born.</p> <p>More than half of the county's population speaks a language other than English. With a diversity of more than 220 languages spoken at home. The Immigrants are LA coalition and its 100 immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations have identified language access as a top need in ensuring that our communities can effectively access county services in a meaningful way.</p> <p>The Language Policy Report that is being considered today would facilitate collaboration among all departments with the Office of Immigrant Affairs, as well as community partners. Its goal is to improve service accessibility to all non-English speakers and improve the quality of life for immigrant communities within the County.</p> <p>The ability to access services in a language a person can understand will significantly contribute to improved health outcomes, economic security, employment opportunities and educational opportunities for immigrants in LA County.</p> <p>This policy would also contribute to building trust between County departments and the diverse immigrant communities they serve.</p> <p>As the need to provide stronger language access becomes more and more essential, we recommend that the county consider:</p> <p>Creating a Language Access Community Consultation Group as part of the process to ensure the most pressing needs of the immigrants intended to be served are being addressed.</p> <p>Expediting translation &amp; interpretation contracts with CBOs who are often in the best position to provide accurate translation for minority languages.</p> <p>Investing in Capacity Building Grants for CBOs to provide translation &amp; interpretation services.</p> <p>Allocating more Office of Immigrant Affairs Staff dedicated to the design &amp; implementation of the Language Access Plan. Rolling out this plan across 40 departments in the county is a huge undertaking and the board must support this with adequate staff time and funding.</p> <p>Expediting &amp; supporting the launch of Language.LACounty.gov, the centralized language services hub for LA County.</p> <p>We strongly urge the Board to support this policy and invest heavily into these efforts to close any existing gaps in language access.</p> |
|  |           | <b>Item Total</b> | <b>1</b>             |   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   |           |                   | <b>1</b>             |   |