AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND JANICE HAHN

July 1, 2025

Empowering Youth Through Know Your Rights Education for Civic Engagement

Los Angeles County is once again witnessing a rise in youth-led civic action in response to heightened immigration enforcement, increased ICE raids, the "No Kings" movement, and other national and local policies that threaten the safety and well-being of immigrant and marginalized communities. In this moment, young people—many of whom are immigrants, children of immigrants, LGBTQ+, and youth of color—are courageously taking to the streets to protest injustice and advocate for their communities.

Governor Gavin Newsom recently acknowledged this climate of fear and urgency, stating that "It's time for all of us to stand up."[1] But while civic participation is essential to democracy, we must ensure that youth can stand up safely, informed of their rights, supported by the community, and protected from unnecessary harm or legal consequences.

Too often, however, youth civic engagement is not met with support but with punitive responses that increase the risk of criminalization, especially for those from

[1] https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-gavin-newsom-california-immigration-protests-a6467fcd3fa66c945ac7c15c40362972

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historically over-policed communities. These risks are not simply the result of gaps in education or awareness, but of systemic patterns in how youth protest is surveilled and treated by law enforcement. Without proper education and resources, youth risk being unnecessarily swept into the criminal legal system for acts that may be easily preventable with the right tools and guidance.

As a County, we have a responsibility to empower our youth, not just to participate in civic life, but to do so safely, confidently, and lawfully. That means ensuring they understand the difference between protected protest activity and actions that could expose them to criminal penalties. It also means standing alongside youth in this critical moment and equipping them with the resources to lead effectively and with lasting impact.

By investing in this proactive, educational approach, Los Angeles County can demonstrate its commitment to youth leadership, constitutional and human rights, and alternatives to criminalization, especially for those fighting to build a more just and equitable future.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Youth Development, Public Defender, and Alternate Public Defender, in consultation with the Human Relations Commission and the Youth Commission, to:

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1. Develop Know Your Rights educational materials and workshops tailored for youth who are participating in protests, walkouts, demonstrations, and other forms of civic engagement. These materials should include:
    a. Legal rights during protest activity, including interactions with law enforcement;
    b. Guidance on navigating curfews, unlawful assemblies, dispersal orders, and juvenile citations;
    c. Resources for youth who may be undocumented, LGBTQ+, or otherwise at heightened risk;
    d. Mental health and trauma-informed safety strategies during civic actions; and
    e. Legal remedies and support for those experiencing unlawful discriminatory targeting and other potential violations of their civil and human rights.
2. Support efforts that equip young people with legal tools and protections during civic engagement, including ensuring that Know Your Rights efforts are grounded in a commitment to protecting youth voices, not criminalizing them, as they advocate for justice and equity.
3. Partner with youth-serving and community-based organizations to co-create and deliver these workshops and materials in a culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and accessible format.

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4. Develop a public communications campaign, including a youth-facing social media strategy, videos, and printed toolkits, to amplify Know Your Rights information across Los Angeles County, with a focus on schools, youth justice organizations, and immigrant-serving networks.
5. Explore opportunities to integrate Know Your Rights information into existing youth diversion and prevention programming, with the goal of preventing unnecessary entry into the juvenile legal system related to protest participation or political activity.
6. Report back in writing to the Board within 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, with a proposed implementation plan, timeline, and resource needs, including recommendations for continued youth and community engagement.

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