

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

August 12, 2025

**Honoring the 55th Anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium: Confronting Ongoing Injustices and ICE Raids in Los Angeles County**

On August 29, 1970, one of the largest anti-Vietnam War demonstrations in the United States and the largest Latino-led protest against the war took place in unincorporated East Los Angeles. Led by Chicanos, a term embraced at the time by many politically active Mexican Americans as a symbol of cultural pride and resistance, more than 20,000 people marched peacefully through the streets to protest the disproportionate drafting of young Latino men into the military, many of whom never returned. The Chicano Moratorium stood out not only for its size but also as a historic moment of Latino-led political activism in the United States.

The war’s toll was not only measured in lives lost abroad but also in the economic and social costs felt at home. To finance the Vietnam War, federal funding was slashed for schools and programs that served low-income communities. For many young Chicanos, especially those who had just turned 18, there was no clear pathway to college, no access to adequate resources, and no real alternatives. The military became the only option.

Similarly, today, federal policies under the Trump administration have continued a pattern of disinvestment in low-income communities. The so-called “Big Beautiful Bill”

**MOTION**

Solis \_\_\_\_\_

Mitchell \_\_\_\_\_

Horvath \_\_\_\_\_

Hahn \_\_\_\_\_

Barger \_\_\_\_\_

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targets and severely cuts critical safety-net programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and housing assistance, even as hundreds of millions of dollars were funneled into the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This surge in funding has made ICE one of the largest enforcement agencies in the world, with resources surpassing those of many military forces. The Chicano Moratorium was a direct response to the systemic injustices of its time. It combined opposition to the Vietnam War with demands for equity in public and private sector hiring, increased investment in marginalized communities, language access, an end to excessive discipline in public schools, and a broader fight against racism and state violence. Today, similar struggles persist as communities continue to face targeted enforcement and disinvestment that echo these historic inequities.

What began as a peaceful demonstration ended in tragedy. The protest was declared an “illegal assembly” by Los Angeles County Sheriff’s deputies, and tear gas was deployed from helicopters. The situation escalated rapidly, leading to widespread chaos and destruction. Hundreds of people were arrested or injured, businesses were damaged, and three lives were lost—including that of Rubén Salazar, an award-winning journalist, news director of KMEX-TV, and columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Salazar had become a crucial voice for the Latino community, dedicated to covering stories that mainstream outlets often ignored. He was killed when a deputy sheriff fired a wall-piercing tear gas round into the Silver Dollar Bar, where Salazar had taken refuge. His

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death remains one of the most painful chapters in Los Angeles County history.

Fifty-five years later, the injustices that fueled the Chicano Moratorium persist. In recent months, warrantless and racially targeted raids by ICE have taken place across Los Angeles County, driven by the Trump administration's federal immigration enforcement priorities and arrest quotas. Angelenos have been taken from their places of work and worship, without explanation, warrants, or legal justification. These sudden, violent separations have left children traumatized, destabilized entire households, and eroded public trust.

The enforcement actions by ICE have disproportionately affected Latino and immigrant communities, repeating the same cycles of profiling, criminalization, and exclusion that the Chicano Moratorium challenged. Just as young Chicanos were once pulled from their communities to fight in a war they did not choose, families today are being torn apart by the Trump administration's disregard for due process and human dignity.

Throughout both eras, journalism has played a key role in documenting these injustices. From Rubén Salazar's courageous reporting to today's grassroots media outlets, community-based journalism has provided timely, culturally relevant, and accurate information to those most affected. These local reporters have ensured that the public is informed, that abuses are not hidden, and that communities have the tools they need to respond.

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Commemorating the Chicano Moratorium and the life of Rubén Salazar is not only about honoring the past. It is a call to recognize the injustices that still exist, to uplift the role of community media, to support civilian oversight of the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, and to reaffirm our shared responsibility to protect the rights and dignity of all residents in Los Angeles County.

**I, 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.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim August 29, 2025, as the 55th Anniversary of the National Chicano Moratorium Against the Vietnam War and to honor the life and legacy of Rubén Salazar; and
2. Uplift grassroots journalism and community-based media organizations that serve immigrant and working-class communities, including those who have played a vital role in exposing recent enforcement actions, delivering accurate and culturally relevant reporting, and connecting residents to legal resources and other safety-net services in real time.

**I, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to:

1. Report back in writing within 30 days on its current use-of-force policies and training programs as they relate specifically to the protection of

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journalists and reporters covering public demonstrations and protests; and

2. Develop and report back in writing within 30 days on clear and accessible protocols that ensure all journalists and reporters, regardless of immigration status, feel safe and supported when reporting incidents or filing complaints related to deputy conduct, actions, or behavior; and
3. Request feedback on directives 1 and 2 from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission prior to finalizing and submitting the written reports; and
4. Present the final findings and protocols outlined in directives 1 and 2 at a Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission meeting within 90 days of completing the directives.

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