AGN. NO._____

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS March 17, 2026

Protecting Small Businesses and Strengthening Economic Resiliency in Los Angeles County

On June 17, 2025, a motion was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The motion was in direct response to the Trump administration's mass immigration enforcement that saw people taken from their workplaces resulting in business owners losing staff, loss of foot traffic at brick-and-mortar businesses, and revenue loss. The motion, which was titled "Responding to Workforce and Economic Impact of Federal Immigration Enforcement in Los Angeles County," directed departments to produce an economic impact report to understand the effect of the immigration raids on the local economy; create a toolkit for business owners and workers to help understand their legal rights; and launch a Small Business Resiliency Fund for direct financial relief to those facing immediate and stark revenue loss.

With 3.5 million residents in Los Angeles County being immigrants, political action that negatively impacts immigrants will have broad impact. The economic impact report, commissioned by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors with the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and whose data collection and analysis were led by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) and the Los Angeles Economic Equity Accelerator (LEEAF), found that of the 311 small

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businesses who took a survey administered online, nearly 60% were concerned about their ability to maintain their current workforce in the coming months. Among those surveyed, 44% reported revenue loss exceeding 50%. The impact of the immigration raids is not only short-term but long-lasting, particularly for smaller businesses that lack the means to recoup costs and will continue to face deficits due to the fear inflamed by federal immigration enforcement tactics. The report found that the climate of fear led to reduced consumer activity, with customers avoiding public spaces. The report provides recommendations such as creating flexible loan and grant programs for businesses and coordinated communication delivery of timely information and resources to businesses. These recommendations serve as a foundation in preparation for response to future broad disruptions and disasters leading to local economic impact.

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

1. Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in consultation with Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), and all other applicable departments, to:
    a. Propose a framework, implementation plan, and necessary resources as requested in DEO's Fiscal Year 2026-27 departmental budget request to the Chief Executive Office to establish and operate a permanent business interruption fund or grant program, to be operated under DEO's Office of Resiliency, focused on providing funds to small businesses impacted by economic disasters.

AGN. NO._____

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b. In the report back from the March 3, 2026 Board approved motion on the Economic Development Trust Funds, include in the report ~~Propose~~ a framework, implementation plan, and necessary resources to establish, as part of the single-point-of-entry Economic Development Trust Fund, a flexible, low-interest loan program for small businesses that will be heavily promoted to the most impacted communities such as but not limited to those ~~as~~ identified in the final Economic Impact Report and geared towards disaster recovery.

c. Ensure both the grant and loan programs are paired with culturally competent, multilingual technical assistance designed to:

   i. Offer small business assistance with loan application packaging for public and private loan programs

   ii. Increase financial literacy and small business readiness for accessing capital

d. Conduct an evaluation of eligibility requirements across County-supported disaster funding programs to identify opportunities to:

   i. Establish baseline standardization where appropriate

   ii. Reduce unnecessary barriers to entry

   iii. Promote accessibility for all businesses, including microbusinesses, immigrant-owned businesses, and those operating in the informal or cash-based economy

e. Propose a definition for economic disaster for both sub-directives a and b, which will be minimally defined as:

   i. Fires, earthquakes, floods, windstorms, rain, and other natural disasters

   ii. Immigration enforcement activity, health emergencies, civil unrest, road closures, strikes and other major economic disruptions

f. Review existing State-supported capital access programs, including but not limited to the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) loan guarantee programs, to:

   i. Assess alignment with disaster-impacted small business needs,

   ii. Evaluate current eligibility criteria and utilization,

   iii. Identify gaps in serving businesses impacted by the proposed changes to the Small Business Administration (SBA) eligibility requirements, and

   iv. Further develop advocacy recommendations in partnership with relevant stakeholders to expand IBank program capacity and improve accessibility for disaster-impacted businesses.

2. DEO, in consultation with DCBA's Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO-LAIR), and all other applicable County departments and partners, to:

AGN. NO._____

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a. Build on education and outreach activities, establish a standing community convening that will meet virtually on a regular frequency to build relationships with small businesses and business serving organizations countywide to at minimum:
    i. Deliver regular communication about changing legislation that impacts small businesses,
    ii. Feature resources to help small businesses,
    iii. Provide multi-lingual participation and real-time opportunities to sign up for individual assistance,
    iv. Encourage enrollment in available programs, services, and resources, such as the “Shop Local” business registry,
    v. Identify opportunities to partner and amplify with the Small Business Commission and LA County Workforce Development Board and community leadership, and
    vi. Regularly evaluate the council to encourage growth and two-way communication with community, particularly in the development and delivery of small business-related programs.
b. Identify One-Stop or other facilities countywide where DEO already has a presence, such as the East Los Angeles Entrepreneur Center located at Maravilla Center, where a rotating calendar of community-based organizations offering a range of services beneficial to small businesses

AGN. NO._____

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can be implemented and provide a plan to implement in those sites.

3. DEO, in consultation with Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, to explore the feasibility of a program partnering with local visual artists, under which consumers who shop at participating small businesses in unincorporated areas may receive prints of existing artworks as an incentive.
4. DEO to r~~R~~eport back in writing within 90 days on Directives 1, 2 and 3.

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