

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

APRIL 14, 2026

**Proclaiming May 1<sup>st</sup> International Worker’s Day in Los Angeles County:  
Recognizing 50 Years of Protecting Workers at the Department of Consumer and  
Business Affairs**

Labor rights have evolved extensively over decades and centuries as workers have united and stood up for humane work conditions, equitable rights to a living wage, and risen against enslavement and forced labor. Greater protections and improvements to labor laws in the United States have occurred due to the work of many figures including Mother Jones who fought against child labor; Frances Perkins who pushed for minimum wage establishment and child labor restrictions; A. Philip Randolph who helped gain employment advancements for Black workers that faced broad workplace discrimination; and Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Gilbert Padilla and many others who fought and gave their lives for the United Farmer Workers movement. These leaders are only a handful of all the efforts across diverse labor movements, the rise of labor unions, and the civil rights movement that have each contributed to the protection of workers and advanced the innate right to earn income.

However, there is still much work to be done. Labor trafficking, unfair labor practice exploiting immigrants, and pay gaps for women are only some of the issues that still plague the local workforce in Los Angeles County. This is why on July 1, 1975, the Board of Supervisors recognized the need for a dedicated entity to protect the rights

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of consumers in Los Angeles County and established the Department of Consumer Affairs under Ordinance 11166. The Department officially opened its doors to the public on April 15, 1976, marking the beginning of a long-standing commitment to protecting residents and promoting fairness and equity in the marketplace.

In its early years, the Department focused on consumer education, complaint resolution, and enforcement, serving as a trusted resource for residents navigating fraud, scams, and unfair business practices. Over time, it expanded its role to strengthen access to justice through Small Claims advisory services, dispute resolution programs, and Self-Help Legal Access Centers, helping millions of residents navigate the legal system and assert their rights. Building on this foundation, the Department further evolved to include foreclosure prevention services, supporting homeowners at risk of displacement and helping stabilize households during times of financial hardship. In 2015, the Department was restructured as the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), marking a pivotal step in its evolution to meet the County's changing needs. This transformation recognized that consumer protection is deeply interconnected with community and housing stability, worker protections, financial security, and access to justice, and led to the establishment and expansion of key initiatives, including the Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Office of Labor Equity, and rent stabilization and housing stability programs.

Over time, the Department's role grew in both scope and impact, reflecting the

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increasing complexity of the challenges facing Los Angeles County residents. What began as a traditional consumer protection agency has evolved into a broader platform for advancing fairness, accountability, and economic justice, particularly for communities disproportionately impacted by economic instability and exploitation. Across this evolution, the Department has remained a trusted resource for residents while prioritizing protections for vulnerable populations, including foster youth, older adults, and immigrant communities. Through its programs and emergency response efforts, including the administration of relief programs and emergency protections, the Department not only responds to harm, but works to prevent it by stabilizing households before crises escalate and strengthening the conditions that allow individuals, families, and communities to thrive.

Today, DCBA operates at the intersection of consumer protection, housing stability, worker protections, and access to justice, advancing a comprehensive and proactive approach to economic justice. As it marks its 50 years of service, the Department remains California's only standalone consumer protection agency, steadfast in its commitment to protecting the rights of consumers, workers, tenants, homeowners, and immigrant communities—and all who live and work in Los Angeles County.

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

1. Adopt the attached resolution, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of

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- Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and recognize its service and contributions to the residents of Los Angeles County;
2. Proclaim, April 15, 2026, as the 50th Anniversary of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs;
  3. Proclaim, May 1, 2026, as International Worker's Day in Los Angeles County;  
and
  4. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to work with all County departments to promote events and educational materials related to International Worker's Day and utilize all County department websites and social media platforms to share information and generate awareness.

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**RESOLUTION**  
**COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**CONSUMER AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 1975, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized the need for a dedicated department to safeguard consumers and uphold fairness in the marketplace and established the Department of Consumer Affairs under Ordinance 11166; and

**WHEREAS**, since opening to the public in 1976, the Department has served as a trusted resource for residents by addressing consumer concerns, promoting education, and enforcing protections against unfair and deceptive practices; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the Department expanded its services to enhance access to justice through guidance, dispute resolution, and legal support resources empowering millions of residents to understand and assert their rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has continued to evolve in response to emerging community needs, including efforts to prevent foreclosure and stabilize households facing financial hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Department's transition to the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs marked a significant milestone, broadening its mission to address the interconnected issues of consumer protection, housing stability, worker protections, and economic well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, through the development of innovative programs and initiatives, the Department has strengthened protections for workers, tenants, immigrants, and other communities, reflecting a more comprehensive approach to advancing equity and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department's continued growth reflects its commitment to addressing increasingly complex challenges while prioritizing support for vulnerable populations and communities disproportionately impacted by economic instability; and

**WHEREAS**, through both its core services and emergency response efforts, the Department plays a critical role not only in responding to harm, but also in preventing it by promoting stability and resilience among individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the Department continues to lead with a forward-looking, integrated approach that advances consumer protection, housing security, worker rights, and access to justice across Los Angeles County; and

**WHEREAS**, after 50 years of service, the Los Angeles County Department of

Consumer and Business Affairs remains California's only standalone county consumer protection agency, and remains steadfast in its mission to protect and empower all who live and work in Los Angeles County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs and reaffirms its commitment to support and uplift the department's work for years to come.

The foregoing Resolution was on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and *ex officio* the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.

EDWARD YEN, Executive Officer-Clerk  
of the Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Los Angeles

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DAWYN R. HARRISON  
County Counsel

By: *Shanaira U. Banerjee*  
Senior Deputy County Counsel