RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is a diverse community that values all of its residents, including its immigrant residents; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) “Secure Communities” deportation program has resulted in the deportation of over 30,000 people from Los Angeles County since its initiation in 2009, including primary caregivers and breadwinners whose families have now been divided by deportation; and;¹

WHEREAS, “Secure Communities” has imposed unwanted costs on local law enforcement and eroded trust between law enforcement and our communities; and

WHEREAS, “Secure Communities” shifts the burden of enforcement of civil immigration law onto local police by requiring local police to submit the fingerprints of all arrestees to ICE for an immigration background check at the point of booking; and

WHEREAS, ICE checks these fingerprints against its flawed, outdated database and then issues “immigration hold” requests for anyone it suspects may be deportable, without regard to that person’s length of residence in the U.S., family ties, or contributions to the community; and without any standard of proof as to the person’s deportability; and

WHEREAS, ICE immigration hold requests ask local police to hold an individual for 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, beyond the point when he or she would otherwise be released largely at local expense and without any judicial order authorizing such confinement; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 3,000 U.S. citizens have been wrongly detained through ICE’s Secure Communities program as a result of flaws in ICE’s databases and the lack of any standard of proof requirement for immigration holds²; and

WHEREAS, crime victims, including domestic violence victims, have been subject to immigration holds as a result of the Secure Communities program, making immigrant crime victims and witnesses reluctant to report crimes or otherwise cooperate with the police³; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles relies on the trust and cooperation of all members of the community to protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, the California legislature last year passed the TRUST Act (AB 1081), which would prohibit a law enforcement official from detaining an individual on the basis of an ICE hold after that individual becomes eligible for release from criminal custody, unless certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS Governor Brown vetoed the TRUST Act on September 30, 2012, but announced his intention to work with the legislature "forthwith" to address his concerns with the bill; and

WHEREAS the TRUST Act was reintroduced in the California Assembly on December 3, 2012 as Assembly Bill 4; and

WHEREAS the TRUST Act is a modest step forward that will help California begin to restore trust between communities and law enforcement; reduce the unjust separation of Los Angeles families; and preserve local law enforcement funds for activities that increase, rather than reduce, public safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2012-2013 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for TRUST ACT, AB 4 (Ammiano).

Presented By: GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

Seconded By: