

MOTION

The greater Los Angeles area is home to over 3.4 million immigrants, who can trace their roots from all around the world and who practice a myriad of different religions - or no religion at all - and whose contributions to our communities form a beautiful, complex and vibrant culture in the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles and its people have overwhelmingly chosen, time and again, to embrace the diversity that strengthens our great city.

There are many examples in our national history when we have violated the values upon which our country is based, and we still suffer as a people from those grave mistakes. Eighty-seven years passed between the declaration that, "...all men are created equal..." by the Second Continental Congress until slavery finally ended in the United States. Another 101 years passed until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally gave power to those words for all people and not just some. The Federal government, through a campaign of forced relocation and cultural devastation, attempted to destroy the very existence of Native Americans. Irrational fears led to the Internment of Japanese-Americans after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, even here in Los Angeles. And in the summer of 1942, the *SS Drottningholm* carried hundreds of Jewish refugees seeking asylum from the horrors of the Holocaust, but the United States shamefully turned them away.

These past examples of actions that violated the bedrock principles of our American Constitutional democracy are among the darkest moments in American history. Like an echo from these dark chapters, the language and legislation of oppression have crept back into the mainstream political discourse in the United States. In many respects, the life, liberty and happiness of vulnerable people throughout our nation, whether through official acts or by emboldened hate groups, are under threat.

As President Barack Obama said in his farewell remarks, "Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power. We, the people, give it meaning. With our participation, and with the choices that we make, and the alliances that we forge. Whether or not we stand up for our freedoms. Whether or not we respect and enforce the rule of law. That's up to us. America is no fragile thing. But the gains of our long journey to freedom are not assured."

Today our country inaugurated a new President of the United States. As a candidate, our new President repeatedly proposed creating a registry of Muslim Americans. He proposed banning Muslims from entering the United States. He repeatedly engaged in rhetoric that suggested an unfair scapegoating of Muslim Americans based solely on their faith.

Our city should take these statements and actions seriously, and we should never tolerate or accept them. We must never facilitate or cooperate with such an abrogation of our most cherished values.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the City Attorney draft an ordinance that would prohibit City employees from participating in any program to register individuals based on their religion or spiritual faith, or that would result in discrimination



on those bases.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney REPORT on their efforts to respond to hate crimes in the City of Los Angeles and ensure the safety of our minority communities, and in particular Muslim Americans.

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