

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(0) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

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Impact Information

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Item Number: 20

Summary: HHPNC supports the City Council's request of the City Attorney and LAPD to clarify the definition of sanctuary jurisdictions and legal implications of the federal government's withholding of funds under Trump's Executive Order of January 25th. HOWEVER, HHPNC expects the LAPD to adhere to its Special Order 40 and for the City to ensure that our law enforcement does not choose to act in a way that is discriminatory and that both legal and undocumented immigrants have full protection as set forth in the accompanying letter.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Post Office Box 50791
Los Angeles, CA 90050
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

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Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

April 6, 2017

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Members of the LA City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in our neighborhood.

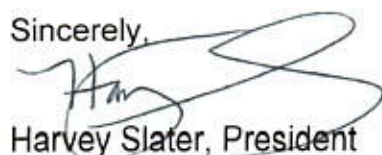
Members of our community have been adversely affected by the presence of ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement) officers in our neighborhoods, as highlighted by the February 28th detention of a Highland Park father, Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez, as he was taking his children to school. We believe that our city's leaders need to be proactive and forward-thinking in advocating for policies that support and ensure the safety of all community members, regardless of immigration status.

HHPNC appreciates that the City Council has made an effort to directly address issues pertaining to our immigrant communities by creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant Affairs and that our own Councilmembers, Gil Cedillo and Jose Huizar have participated in supporting immigrant communities through their involvement with this committee. As such, we would like to provide recommendations for actions that the council and city leaders can take to protect our immigrant communities' human rights, and in turn, protect our families, children, and the fabric of our communities.

1. **Declare Los Angeles a sanctuary city.** Following the example of Santa Ana, CA, officially declaring Los Angeles to be a sanctuary city would send a clear message that would reverberate through California and beyond that this city welcomes and believes adamantly in the safety and human rights of all inhabitants, regardless of immigration status.
2. **Develop an ordinance to assure that Mayor Garcetti's Executive Directive 20 is properly enforced.** While the directive does symbolize progress, it is not an ordinance, and therefore leaves room for rogue individuals to ignore the directive and act in their own interest.
3. **Address vulnerabilities in Mayor Garcetti's Executive Directive 20.** The confidentiality measures included may still allow for the transmission of information from law enforcement to federal immigration authorities. Additionally, the directive does not address prisoner transfer between law enforcement to immigration authorities, which could result in collateral arrest of undocumented residents who are not suspected of or involved in serious crimes.
4. **Ensure that undocumented immigrants facing deportation remain entitled to legal representation and due process of the law, without exception.** To assure that immigrants facing deportation have access to legal counsel is to assure that the human rights and 4th amendment rights of these individuals and their families are honored and upheld. An example of success elsewhere in this arena can be found in the New York City council's "New York Immigrant Family Unit Program," in which not only did the number of deportations decrease, but also the amount of money spent detaining and deporting immigrants was reduced by upholding immigrants' right to due process and allowing them access to legal counsel. Keeping families together means that our communities remain strong and our kids continue to have the support they need in their formative years. Assurance should also be provided that those individuals who are detained receive fair and humane treatment including medical care, visitation rights, and nutritious food.
5. **Ensure that people of color are not subject to increased policing or profiling.** Measures must be taken to ensure that people of color are not subject to increased policing or profiling. Although LAPD Special Order 40 has been in effect since 1979, city leaders must assure that law enforcement does not choose to act in a way that is discriminatory.

It is our hope that the council will consider these recommendations. We must take every step possible to ensure the safety and well-being of all of the individuals in our community, regardless of immigration status.

Sincerely,



Harvey Slater, President
Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council