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, hostile rhetoric and increased immigration enforcement policies have created a state of fear and worry among the population of undocumented immigrants, not only in Los Angeles, but nationwide; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, the Office of the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, released a memorandum with the subject “Zero-Tolerance for Offenses Under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a),” that directed United States Attorney’s Offices along the Southwest Border to immediately adopt a zero-tolerance policy for illegal entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, this policy would result in the referral for prosecution of all migrants found to have entered the United States illegally, including asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, upon the prosecution of a migrant under this policy, any accompanying minor, classified as under 18 years of age, would lose their guardian and be considered an “unaccompanied child” and placed in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement; and

WHEREAS, as stated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions in remarks made on May 7, 2018, the separation of minors from their families is an acknowledged consequence of the enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy is being enacted as a deterrent to those who may attempt to illegally enter the United States in the future by unfairly punishing individuals and families who have already been apprehended in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the separation caused by this policy could result in the separation of families for a significant period of time and would furthermore endanger unaccompanied minors by placing them in uncertain situations without guardianship; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services’ system for guaranteeing the safety of unaccompanied minors has been shown to have an inability to effectively track those placed with caretakers;

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 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for any legislation and/or administrative action which would aid migrant families that have been separated by the Department of Homeland Security.

PRESENTED BY: NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

abg