

Unaccompanied children who are apprehended having illegally entered the United States are designated as "unaccompanied children" and are placed in the care of Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), where they are ideally connected with caretakers, often relatives who reside in the United States, while they await an immigration hearing.

On April 26, 2018, Steven Wagner, the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, testified at the United States Senate's Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the actions being taken by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services to improve transfers and monitoring of care for unaccompanied children who are apprehended having made illegal entry in to the United States.

The hearing largely addressed issues raised by the United States Government Accountability Office, which has released multiple reports outlining the inefficiencies of the process of referral and placement of unaccompanied children. According to the testimony provided by the Acting Assistant Secretary, the ORR reached out to 7,365 children and their sponsors, but were unable to contact or otherwise reach 1,475 children or their sponsors. According to the ORR report, 2,906 unaccompanied children were placed with caretakers in Los Angeles County in 2017.

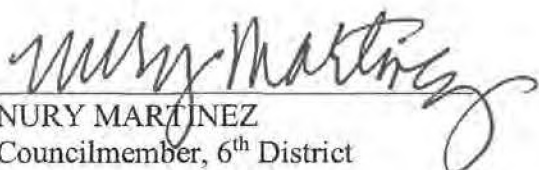
There may be several resources within the City that can provide aid to populations impacted by enforcement of the zero-tolerance policy. The City's FamilySource Centers provide supportive services to families in need and could potentially provide services or direct unaccompanied minors and their caregivers to appropriate resources. Services provided by the City may be more accessible to those who fear potential prosecution by the Department of Justice.

The inability of federal government to track and otherwise provide safety to unaccompanied minors represents a significant safety issue for unaccompanied children who may reside in the City of Los Angeles and leaves them vulnerable to human trafficking, abusive conditions, or illicit activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council:

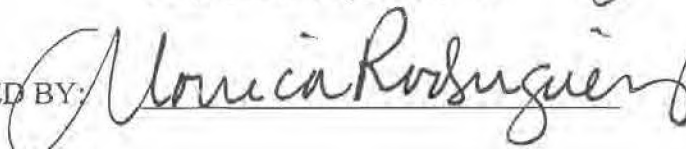
1. Direct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance of other appropriate entities, to report on how "unaccompanied children" are being resettled in the City of Los Angeles.
2. Direct the Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance of the Housing and Community Investment Department and other appropriate entities, to identify any City resources or programs that are currently available or could be made available to aid unaccompanied children and families affected by the Department of Justice's zero-tolerance policy.

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

JUN 08 2018

SECONDED BY:



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