

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 10, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and
Intergovernmental Relations and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *ST*
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S83
Assignment No: 19-05-0458

SUBJECT: Resolution relative to establishing the State Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT of Assembly Bill (AB) 1113 which would establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees.

SUMMARY

On May 3, 2019, a Resolution (Cedillo-Huizar) was introduced to support AB 1113 (Chiu) which would establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees.

The Resolution states that the City of Los Angeles has taken numerous actions to protect the rights of immigrants, including, 1) the creation of the Council Committee on Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights and Equity to explore and address issues affecting the immigrant community, 2) the decriminalization of sidewalk vending to prevent the deportation of individuals who commit minor infractions, and 3) passage of a resolution recognizing the City as a City of Sanctuary.

The Resolution also states that the California State Legislature has also taken numerous actions to protect immigrants and to help them integrate into society through access to English language learning and literacy and the naturalization process, and in 2015 Governor Jerry Brown established the Statewide Director of Immigrant Integration to further assist immigrants and refugees. In spite of these efforts, the immigrant community continues to be the subject of discrimination, family separations, and unwarranted incarceration of men, women and children.

The Resolution states that the Trump Administration continues to attack the immigrant community by enacting and enforcing harsh immigration policies that result in the criminalization of immigrants.

According to the Resolution, on March 18, 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 1113 (Chiu) was introduced to establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees in California.

The Resolution notes that the City of Los Angeles welcomes, supports, and values immigrants and their economic, social, political, and cultural contributions to the United States. Therefore, the Resolution supports AB 1113.

BACKGROUND

On February 21, 2019, AB 1113 (Chiu) was introduced to establish the State Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees. The bill would require that all existing and future programs addressing this population be incorporated into this new office. The responsibilities of the office would include coordinating immigrant and refugee services among state agencies; making policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature; and coordinating with local immigrant affairs offices to maximize the impact of the services they provide.

The bill provides that the head of the State Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs will be appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill would transfer any unencumbered balance of any appropriation or funds related to immigrant or refugee affairs.

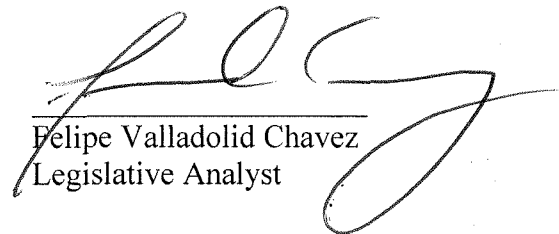
Lastly, the bill would establish the duties and responsibilities of the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs which includes a permanent structure within the State to serve immigrants, assisting other state agencies in evaluating their programs for accessibility and effectiveness in providing services to immigrants and refugees, and recommending policy and budget mechanisms for meeting immigrant and refugee integration goals.

Council approval of the attached Resolution to support AB 1113 would be consistent with the City's intent to further provide and coordinate services for immigrants and refugees.

AB 163 Bill Status

Introduced
Passed Committee on Judiciary
Pending in Assembly Appropriations Committee

February 21, 2019
March 19, 2019



Felipe Valladolid Chavez
Legislative Analyst

SMT:fvc

Attachment: Resolution (Cedillo-Huizar)

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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 has taken numerous actions to protect the rights of immigrants, including, 1) the creation of the Council Committee on Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights and Equity to explore and address issues affecting the immigrant community, 2) the decriminalization of sidewalk vending to prevent the deportation of individuals who commit minor infractions, and 3) passage of a resolution recognizing the City as a City of Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, California State Legislature has also taken numerous actions to protect immigrants and to help them integrate into society through access to English language learning and literacy and the naturalization process, and in 2015 Governor Jerry Brown established the Statewide Director of Immigrant Integration to further assist immigrants and refugees; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these efforts, the immigrant community continues to be the subject of discrimination, family separations, and unwarranted incarceration of men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration continues to attack the immigrant community by enacting and enforcing harsh immigration policies that result in the criminalization of immigrants; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 1113 was (Chiu) was introduced to establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees in California; and

WHEREAS, the proposed agency's responsibilities would include coordinating immigrant and refugee services among state agencies; assisting state agencies in evaluating the effectiveness and reach of their services; making policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature; and coordinating with local immigrant affairs offices to maximize the impact of the services they provide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles welcomes, supports, and values immigrants and their economic, social, political and cultural contributions to the United States;

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 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of AB 1113 (Chiu) which would establish the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs to develop programs and policies to better address the needs of immigrants and refugees.

PRESENTED BY *MA* *C FOR*
GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY *Frederick*

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