

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(19) Nay(0) Abstain(2) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/12/2017

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 05/14/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-0109

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") provides general comments regarding Council File 17-0109, as further described in the attached letter. DLANC stands in support of all vulnerable stakeholders, both citizens and non-citizens. DLANC absolutely rejects the politics of fear perpetuated by the Trump Administration. DLANC believes the City should publicly and unequivocally state that our community stands together by officially declaring that Los Angeles is a sanctuary city. This offers the City a unique opportunity to define the scope of its sanctuary, which DLANC believes should generally prevent not only public officials, but also certain private individuals and entities such as landlords, from communicating with immigration officials. No matter whether the Trump Administration threatens the City's federal funds, we can endure and thrive as a community.



April 12, 2017

Council File 17-0109

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members,

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) requests that the following Community Impact Statement be added to Council File 17-0109 with general comments concerning the City’s on-going effort to protect undocumented immigrants in Los Angeles from deportation. While DLANC appreciates the City’s concern that its unofficial designation as a “sanctuary city” could complicate the City’s relationship with the U.S. Federal Government and the Trump Administration, now is not the time for posturing and equivocation. Before any further action is taken, DLANC believes the City should publicly and officially declare that Los Angeles is a sanctuary city.

DLANC stands in support of all vulnerable stakeholders, both citizens and non-citizens. It can hardly be denied that Los Angeles has been built by our immigrant population. DLANC alone is adjacent to Little Tokyo, Chinatown, Koreatown, and Historic Filipinotown—a list that barely scratches the surface of the diversity in and around Downtown LA. Indeed, it is almost impossible to adequately account for the racial, ethnic, and religious diversity that contributes to the beauty and sustainability of our City.

Sadly, the Trump Administration does not share this perspective on American immigrants, especially those without documentation. Instead, President Trump has publicly committed the Federal Government to deporting millions of immigrants from Central and South America, many of whom fled unspeakable violence and destitute poverty for a life in the United States. The Administration has instituted several so-called “Muslim bans,” which confirm an irrational fear and animosity toward non-white people. The examples are numerous and the conclusion undeniable: The Administration has adopted a worldview premised on tyranny and white supremacy.

The moment has come for the City of Los Angeles to declare its wholesale support for its immigrant population threatened by the Trump Administration. The City should immediately and officially designate itself a “sanctuary city.” Granted, the definition of “sanctuary city” is fuzzy, but the City should no longer use that as an excuse for avoiding an official designation. We are a sanctuary City.

We should not have public officials, or even certain private individuals and entities such as landlords, working with federal immigration officials to threaten and deport Los Angeles residents. By defining the term “sanctuary city” for itself, the City could establish clear guidelines and rules for its relationship with federal immigration officials. Even more importantly, an official declaration of sanctuary could be an crucial show of support for immigrants in Los Angeles. Already, the City’s Latino/a residents are reporting less sexual assaults and domestic violence to the police out of fear such reports could result in deportation.¹ This is unacceptable in any city, let alone Los Angeles.

DLANC understands the City’s concern that the “sanctuary city” designation could risk important federal funds. But that outcome is inevitable; no matter what the City officially calls itself, the Trump Administration will view Los Angeles as a “sanctuary city.” The City might as well publicly support its residents at the same time. Besides, even if the City loses certain federal funds, DLANC has no doubt the City can endure and thrive on its own, so long as it endorses justice over fear.

This Community Impact Statement is based on the recommendation of the Government Liaison Committee on March 22, 2017, and action taken at the Board of Directors meeting on April 12, 2017, when the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion and directed that a Community Impact Statement be filed reflecting its position.

Motion: “The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council (“DLANC”) should submit a Community Impact Statement with general comments on Council File 17-0109. DLANC stands in support of all vulnerable stakeholders, both citizens and non-citizens. DLANC absolutely rejects the politics of fear perpetuated by the Trump Administration. DLANC believes the City should publicly and unequivocally state that our community stands together by officially declaring that Los Angeles is a sanctuary city. No matter whether the Trump Administration threatens the City’s federal funds, we can endure and thrive as a community. DLANC should submit the letter posted with this Agenda in support of the Community Impact Statement.”

Sincerely,



Patricia Berman
DLANC President

Sincerely,



Nate Johnson
DLANC Government Liaison Committee Chair

¹ Los Angeles Times, “Latinos are reporting fewer sexual assaults amid a climate of fear in immigrant communities, LAPD says,” Mar. 21, 2017 (<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-immigrant-crime-reporting-drops-20170321-story.html>).