

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, existing law prohibits individuals from acting in the capacity of an immigration consultant unless that person is an attorney or authorized by federal law to represent persons before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA); and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 1753 (Carrillo) was introduced to make it unlawful for anyone who is not an attorney, or authorized by federal law, to provide legal advice or services related to any "immigration matter;" and

WHEREAS, the bill expands the definition of "immigration matter" to include proceedings, filings, and actions issued by the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Board of Immigration Appeals; and

WHEREAS, the bill would require the development of a website that would include information related to immigration services available in California; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles District Attorney recently announced the convictions of several suspects in various immigration service scams that victimized more than 300 immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney also announced that eight major criminal cases for crimes such as grand theft, extortion, perjury and forgery related to immigration fraud have been prosecuted since 2017; and

WHEREAS, "notarios" prey on the immigrant community and often misrepresent themselves as attorneys and collect excessively high fees for legal services that they are not authorized to provide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles previously adopted a Motion (Martinez-Cedillo) relative to combating immigration fraud by unscrupulous individuals who pose as attorneys to prey, manipulate, and rob our community who are seeking to comply with federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, there are local efforts addressing the issue of "notario" fraud, a statewide policy would greatly benefit this vulnerable population;

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 1753 to make it unlawful to provide legal advice or services related to any immigration matter for anyone who is not an attorney or authorized by federal law.

PRESENTED BY 
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY



MAY 22 2019

ORIGINAL

