

MOTION

Los Angeles relies on and is made better by the diverse immigrant population that call this City home. Among many other immigrant communities, our City is home to an estimated 250,000 Indigenous Oaxacans which itself is a diverse, vibrant population with many languages spoken and cultures celebrated. The community is large, and while many Oaxacan Angelenos work in service industry jobs that keep our City running, they still often lack access to legal, health, housing, and entrepreneurship opportunities. Discrimination against the Oaxacan community is not a phenomenon unique to Los Angeles and takes many forms, including a dearth of resources accessible in Indigenous languages and in the use of racist slurs such as "Oaxaquita" and "Indio".

In 2022, audio surfaced of a 2021 conversation between three City Councilmembers and the head of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor in which, among other alarming sentiments, there were clear, indefensible anti-Oaxacan remarks made. These comments invalidate lives, denigrate pre-Columbian languages, and perpetuate a long history of discrimination against a significant group of our immigrant population.

All Angelenos deserve to feel at home in our City, to have their culture and language respected. This includes the Oaxacan community and we must ensure, especially in light of the racism displayed in such recent memory by City leaders, that we stand in meaningful solidarity with this vital segment of our community.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department be directed to report on the feasibility of creating a commission on the lived experience of Indigenous peoples from countries of origin other than the United States living in Los Angeles, including but not limited to the Oaxacan community, in order to ensure that all Indigenous peoples are able to meaningfully participate in our City.

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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