

MOTION

As a global, diverse City, Los Angeles is home to a multitude of languages; by some estimates, there are more than 220 languages spoken within the Los Angeles area. According to the 2020 census, more than 58% of Angelenos over the age of 5 years old speak a language other than English at home.

On December 16, 2021, former Mayor Eric Garcetti issued Executive Directive No. 32 calling for the creation of a Citywide Language Access Plan as well as specific Language Access Plans for each City Department. This work, originally housed within Mayor Garcetti's Office of Immigrant Affairs, now falls under the purview of the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD).

While the intent of the Executive Directive was to ensure all City services were accessible to speakers of all languages, City Council was not directly named as a body that required its own Language Access Plan despite Council being a significant way that many Angelenos interact with the City. From giving public comment at council meetings to reading through motions and agendas, there are crucial touchpoints that we must ensure are welcoming to people of all backgrounds and who speak any and all languages.

Whether intentionally or otherwise, we as a City have inflicted harm on many non-English speaking communities over the years as residents struggle to access services or weigh in on City policies simply because of the language they speak. As we think through what it would look like for people who speak any of the hundreds of languages spoken in our City, we must not only consider what meaningful access looks like, but what true language justice means.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD), in collaboration with the Office of the City Clerk, the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Information Technology Agency, and any other necessary Departments, report back within 60 days with recommendations for a Los Angeles City Council Language Justice Plan, including the following:

- Language accessibility options for the Council File Management System, including the documents within each file;
- Language accessibility options for all agendas and similar documents with which the public can engage;
- Multilingual interpretation services for all City Council meetings, including Committees;
- Multilingual interpretation services accessible to the public for meetings with elected offices and their staff; and,
- Funding required to establish and implement the recommendations provided in the report for FY 23/24 and for ongoing services.

I FURTHER MOVE that, in creating the above-outlined recommendations, CIFD consult with the below-outlined groups on necessary actions to achieve Language Justice within City Council:

- Indigenous community groups;
- Disability justice groups; and,
- Other community based language justice advocates and consultants.

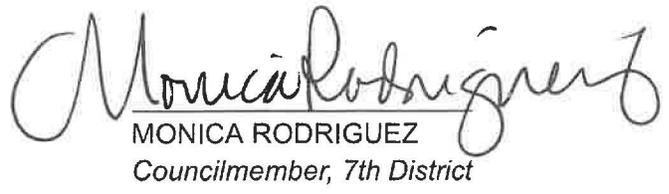
ORIGINAL

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JUL 05 2023

PRESENTED BY:


EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY: