

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Francesca de la Rosa

**Date Submitted:** 01/26/2021 08:47 AM

**Council File No:** 17-0046-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Councilmembers: I am writing on behalf of Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS). WORKS is a nonprofit community development corporation whose mission and core values is based upon delivering quality affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. We strongly support the LA Justice Fund and we urge you to make this a permanent program, as it is a critical local safety net for immigrant communities in Los Angeles. We would like to lift up, once more, the letter that was sent to you on January 20th from 112 signatories, which outlines the need for LAJF. This is the first time that the City of LA has provided funding for removal defense work, and without renewed funding, the programs will fold and the infrastructure created and the City had invested on will collapse. We continue to see the ways that the US immigration system attacks our immigrant community on a daily basis and call on the City of Los Angeles to respond and defend individuals who call Los Angeles their home. The City of Los Angeles must reaffirm its commitment to protect the millions of immigrant Angeleno that are part of our City's social fabric by renewing and creating a permanent Los Angeles Justice Fund to ensure due process for all. We urge the commitment of public dollars to protect non-citizen Angelenos and the communities we serve. Support the LA Justice Fund and make this a permanent program. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maria Melo

**Date Submitted:** 01/26/2021 02:39 PM

**Council File No:** 17-0046-S2

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Maria Melo. My pronouns are she/her and I am a the Policy and Operations Manager for the Los Angeles LGBT Center. I am here today to urge the Los Angeles City Council to make the Los Angeles Justice Fund a permanent program once and for all. The Los Angeles Justice Fund is an example of what the City of Los Angeles can and must do to rise to the challenge set forth by our nation in this time of reckoning. Make no mistake. This is an issue of racial justice. As the disparate racial impacts of policing, and the criminal legal system more generally, cascade into the immigration system, immigrants of color feel the double oppression that comes from over-policing from both law enforcement and immigration enforcement. That is why more than 110 organizations including ours believe that your leadership and commitment to the LAJF will reflect the City's commitment to helping the immigrant community getting thought the COVID 19 crisis and fighting back against xenophobia and racism, and in furthering racial justice. Story Why is this relevant to you? Does it affect you and/or issues, people or communities you know or care about. As an LGBT immigrant who arrived here in ideal circumstances as a Deputy Consul for Colombia, I have been honored and moved to work with immigrant's rights partners, legal aid organizations and the Los Angeles LGBT Center to help LGBT Immigrants in my community. Thanks to the Los Angeles Justice Fund. The LA LGBT Center's Legal Services team has addressed the high incidence of homelessness and near homelessness of LGBT immigrants while securing legal protection due to the fact that most arrive without family networks of support. Through 2020, the Los Angeles Justice Fund has enabled Center LGBT clients to remain in the United States in 100% percent of closed cases and like them to the Center's life saving health care, transitional living shelter programs for LGBT asylum seeker youth, and a network of support and services offered to the LA LGBT Community to get through this crisis. Ask That is why I am urging City Council to take a stand today with all of us, and fight for legal representation for LA immigrants when it matters most. This crisis is clearly not over. Every Angeleno Deserves Access to Counsel regardless of documentation status. There is a flawed & destructive Immigration System that precedes Trump, that will take years to

dismantle and that continues to challenge us in this time of reckoning. We must keep Angelenos united during the COVID pandemic. Let's make the Los Angeles Justice Fund permanent. The work for LA's immigrant community is unfinished and LGBT immigrants and the immigrant community understand this. Los Angeles must step up to the challenge as well. Thank you.