

# 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, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Defense (DOD) have policies to facilitate the naturalization of non-citizen service members and veterans and provide informational resources to those who are seeking naturalization; and

WHEREAS, USCIS facilitates the application and naturalization process for current and recently discharged members of the U.S. Armed Forces through a dedicated Military Naturalization Unit that processes applications and assists field officers with administrative naturalization tasks overseas; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), non-citizens have historically served in the U.S. Armed Forces, but may not be applying or qualifying for U.S. citizenship even though the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) allows non-citizen service members to acquire citizenship; and

WHEREAS, according to the GAO, citizenship status, including removal history, does not affect a veteran's eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services, though living abroad affects eligibility for certain benefits and services; and

WHEREAS, DOD determines whether a service member meets the qualifying service requirement for naturalization by certifying whether the service member has served honorably, if he or she has separated from service, and the conditions of such separation; and

WHEREAS, such USCIS policies require that when Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and officers learn they have encountered a potentially removable veteran, ICE must further assess the case; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the GAO found that although ICE has developed policies for handling cases of non-citizen veterans who may be subject to removal from the U.S., it does not consistently adhere to those policies; and

WHEREAS, pending before Congress is H.R. 1182 – *The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act* – which would establish protocols to protect veteran military personnel from deportation and assist with the naturalization process; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support H.R. 1182 to strengthen protections from deportation of non-citizen veteran military personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of H.R. 1182 – *The Veteran Deportation Prevention and Reform Act*– which would protect non-citizen veteran military personnel from deportation and assist with the naturalization process.

PRESENTED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

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JUN 18 2021

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