

Communication from Public

Name: Stakeholders of Sunland Tujunga | ST Forward | ABRA
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Council File No: 21-0263
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached.

Community Impact Statement

DATE: June 10, 2021

TO: LA Mayor, LA City Council, Los Angeles, CA

RE: Community Impact Statement in **SUPPORT** of Council File #21-0002-S55

Resolution Relative to HR 1177 and S 348.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Los Angeles City Council, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is writing in SUPPORT of the Resolution Relative to HR 1177 and S348, the United States Citizenship Act of 2021.

Under the previous White House Administration, United States immigration policy and ICE were weaponized against immigrants seeking asylum in our nation. The ACLU, Human Rights Watch, and National Immigrant Justice Center released an extensive report outlining the depth and breadth of human rights abuses occurring within the so-called "Crimmigration System." These included inadequate medical care, substandard food, unjustifiable solitary confinement, non-existent mental health services, separation of children from their families, sexual assaults, and denial of access to counsel. The full report can be found here:

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/supporting_resources/justice_free_zones_immigrant_detention.pdf

The passage of the United States Citizenship Act of 2021 promises to provide an expedited, *legal* path to citizenship. Additionally, it would expand the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Professional Responsibility to create use-of-force guidelines for border agents and hold them responsible for their actions. Most importantly, the law would establish crucial humanitarian provisions for vulnerable migrant populations: increased capacity for processing asylum seekers; expansion of family case management programs, which serve as alternatives to detention; development of minimum standards of care for immigrant detention centers; and reform of employment verification standards so that immigrants have additional rights in the workplace.

The California economy is the fifth largest in the world, and several sources have identified how much of our economy depends on undocumented immigrant labor. In fact, entire sectors of our economy, like agriculture, would entirely collapse without them. Contrary to prevailing myths, undocumented immigrants also contribute approximately \$3 billion in state and local taxes to our economy annually, according to the California Budget & Policy Center. It is time that we honor those contributions with humane immigration reform. As such, we urge the Los Angeles City Council to PASS the resolution in support of the United States Citizenship Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

Stakeholders of Sunland-Tujunga | ST Forward | ABRA