

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Emma Lingel-Gary

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 03:55 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable City Council Members, I am a UCLA Law student and I urge you to make the LA Justice Fund a permanent program and to allocate \$5 million to this program. It is critical that City Council embrace a holistic LA Justice Fund by eliminating criminal exclusions. All people facing deportation deserve due process. Removal proceedings can be just as punishing, terrifying, and carceral as criminal proceedings. Our constitution guarantees criminal defendants counsel, and anyone facing deportation deserves the same. Excluding people with criminal convictions perpetuates racial discrimination that the LA Justice Fund was created to fight against. Eliminating criminal exclusions from the LAJF also helps protect survivors of crime such as domestic violence and human trafficking, as these exclusions often prevent survivors themselves from receiving immigration defense. Many of these individuals are subject to criminal convictions resulting from their trauma, and they deserve representation in immigration proceedings to prevent further harm to people already exploited and harmed by the criminal system. Due to the entanglement of our criminal justice and immigration systems, the disparate racial impact of the criminal system directly impacts the immigration courts, and those with a criminal history should not be doubly punished by facing deportation without legal counsel. Funding the LA Justice Fund helps protect immigrants of color who disproportionately face the oppression of over-policing by both law enforcement and immigration enforcement. Additionally, criminal exclusions prevent immigrant defense counsel from working as efficiently and effectively as possible, requiring significant work to be done by LAJF attorneys and support staff in order to simply determine someone's eligibility for assistance. The delay of obtaining someone's accurate criminal history, often taking days or weeks, negatively impacts the outcome of their immigration case due to the advanced time-frame detained cases operate within. As the most diverse and immigrant-rich city in America, Los Angeles should be leading the effort to sustain and expand deportation defense for Angelenos, not falling behind the efforts of other cities. The LA Justice Fund has proven to be an important, life-saving program to defend Angelenos unfairly targeted by the immigration system. So again, we urge you to make this a permanent program, funded

with an allocation of \$5 million, and to ensure that it truly serves all people and excludes no one. Thank you. Sincerely, Emma Lingel-Gary

## Communication from Public

**Name:** renee garcia

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 03:58 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you. Renee Garcia

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amanda Schuft

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:01 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you. Amanda Schuft

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Scott W Doyle

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:04 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** It wasn't until 1963 that the Supreme Court ruled that states are required to provide counsel to defendants in criminal court who cannot afford one. But 50 years earlier, a group of advocates in Los Angeles didn't wait for federal action. They stepped up and created the nation's first public defenders office. It is time for Los Angeles to step up again and ensure due process in immigration court, where those facing deportation are 10 times more likely to successfully defend their right to remain in this country if they have legal representation. With immigration reform stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration continuing many of Trump's harsh policies, it falls on local government to establish a legal safety net for immigrants. A pilot program established in 2018, the Los Angeles Justice Fund, must now be made permanent and universal, with no exclusions. The other two partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have already chosen this path. More than 20 local governments across the country have a universal defense fund for immigrants--including 7 cities and counties in California. It is time--it is past time--for the City of LA to join them. I urge this Committee to adopt Option 1A in the CLA's report, along with Options 2B and 3B.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:09 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:10 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, Our national leadership has for decades failed to fix the overly punitive and unjust immigration system. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants who make up an essential part of the communities, workforce, and families in Los Angeles County. As a pilot program for universal deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Although the consequences of a removal order are severe, posing a threat to the physical safety and family unity of those immigrants subjected to deportation - there is no public defender system, no guarantee to counsel, in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. Dozens of local governments are leading by example and choosing to fund deportation defense. Undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more likely to be successful than those without representation. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. I hope that you will join us in fighting for justice for immigrants in our community. Thank you. Yliana Johansen-Mendez Immigrant Defenders Law Center

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kimberly

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:13 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** City Council should seize this opportunity to fund a public defender model for persons facing removal proceedings in immigration court. For evidence of the great need for this type of model, just spend time in immigration court with unrepresented immigrants. There, you'll find respondents standing before judges, being asked to fill out complicated forms that take attorneys weeks to prepare and questioned about topics that challenge attorneys, like exactly how they qualify for asylum. The immigration system is complicated and at times non-sensical, and requiring someone who doesn't speak English and hasn't gone to law school to figure out something that our circuit courts routinely argue about is insane. LA has the chance to be at the forefront of ensuring that everyone has due process rights when it comes to protecting their ability to stay in this country and it would be a shame to let this pass by. Do the right thing - endorse Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** ILIANA ALEXIS GOMEZ

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 04:57 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you, Iliana Alexis Gomez Immigrant Defenders Law Center

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Judy London

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 05:02 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** To keep immigrant families together and stand with immigrants, the IACRE must support the establishment of a permanent legal defense program for Angelenos facing detention and deportation with no exclusions.

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Dear IACRE Committee,

This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. Through the LA Justice Fund, Public Counsel has been able to build its deportation defense capacity, and keep families together by affording them due process. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort.

Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B.

Thank you.

Judy London  
Directing Attorney, Immigrants' Rights Project  
Public Counsel

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mona Iman

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 05:11 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, Our immigration system continues to unfairly target vulnerable communities, and while reform has stalled in Congress, our new Administration has chosen to continue many of the harshest policies of its predecessor. We need our local government to step in to ensure due process for immigrants. I've been lucky to serve through a pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, and know first-hand how essential it is to protect and provide a lifeline, and legal safety net, for undocumented individuals in our communities. LA County and two private foundations have chosen to make this program permanent and adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join its partners in this effort. Tragically, there is currently no established right to due process in immigration court. Think of view universal representation within the deportation defense context like the vital public defender system in criminal court. Research shows that the same prejudices that pervade the criminal legal system extend to the immigration system. Immigrants of color who are racially profiled and criminalized are then funneled into the detention and deportation machinery and are often deprived of the representation they need. During this moment of reckoning throughout the city and the world, it is more important than ever to support principles of justice. Dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model - including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. Los Angeles is one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country - it is long overdue that we join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you, Mona Iman Immigrant Defenders Law Center

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Judy Branfman

**Date Submitted:** 10/20/2021 06:05 PM

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

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It's up to local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for our undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. It's high time for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Sincerely, Judy Branfman