

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Galvan

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 02:20 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Escribo en apoyo del Fondo de Justicia de Los Ángeles y para insistirle a cada miembro del Comité de Asuntos de Inmigrantes, Derechos Civiles y Equidad (IACRE) que apruebe la continuación de financiamiento y los cambios de calificación para el programa. El fondo LA Justice debe ser accesible para todos aquellos que necesitan representación legal independientemente de sus antecedentes penales. Los inmigrantes representan el 36.3% de la población total de Los Ángeles, el 51.4% de los propietarios de negocios de la ciudad y el 71.75% de los trabajadores esenciales. Los inmigrantes forman parte muy importante de nuestra comunidad. Los inmigrantes que enfrentan la deportación y un sistema de inmigración complicado merecen un juicio justo y el apoyo de un abogado bien preparado. Como residente de Los Ángeles [desde hace 21 años, estoy increíblemente orgulloso de la diversidad y la belleza de nuestra ciudad, todo lo cual no sería posible sin los inmigrantes, que han sufrido los impactos desproporcionados de la pandemia. El LA Justice Fund es una inversión en la seguridad de los inmigrantes angelinos, que han construido nuestra ciudad y continúan invirtiendo en ella. Hago un llamado al Comité de Asuntos de Inmigrantes, Derechos Civiles y Equidad para que cumpla de manera responsable con su compromiso de construir un Los Ángeles mejor para los inmigrantes e invierta en el Fondo de Justicia de Los Ángeles, un programa que protegerá sus derechos civiles.

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Jose Vides

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 02:24 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of CHIRLA, I am writing to follow up on our previous letters and urge the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee to adopt the following program recommendations outlined in the CLA's report: Option 1A: Adopt the proposed Immigrant Legal Services framework, in partnership with LA County, CCF, and Weingart, and instruct the CAO and CLA to report on the transfer of existing LAJF cases to the new program. Option 2B: Authorize city funds allocated in the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget to be used for financing existing LAJF cases and new cases under the new Immigrant Legal Services framework. Option 3B: Adopt a merit-blind approach where criminal history is not considered as eligibility criteria for participating in the new program.



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January 20th, 2021

The Honorable Kevin de Leon
Chair, Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

RE: Recommendations for Los Angeles Justice Fund Phase II for Immigration Services

Founded in 1986 the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) is a California leader, with national impact, made up of diverse immigrant families and individuals who act as agents of social change to achieve a world with freedom of mobility, full human rights, and true participatory democracy, fully inclusive of refugees and immigrants. CHIRLA prides itself in our work to serve the immigrant community through civic engagement, community education, organizing, advocacy at the forefronts of local, state, and federal government, and the provision of legal immigration services.

On behalf of CHIRLA, I am writing to follow up on our previous letters and urge the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee to adopt the following program recommendations outlined in the CLA's report:

Option 1A: Adopt the proposed Immigrant Legal Services framework, in partnership with LA County, CCF, and Weingart, and instruct the CAO and CLA to report on the transfer of existing LAJF cases to the new program.

Option 2B: Authorize city funds allocated in the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget to be used for financing existing LAJF cases and new cases under the new Immigrant Legal Services framework.

Option 3B: Adopt a merit-blind approach where criminal history is not considered as eligibility criteria for participating in the new program.

Since its launch in 2017, the LAJF pilot program demonstrated the power of a public-private partnership to expand the safety net available to the one-third of Angelenos who identify as immigrants. According to an analysis by the USC Dornsife Equity Research Institute, as of January 2021 LAJF grantees reported at least 2,047 legal screenings and provided representation to 568 cases throughout L.A. City and County. The LAJF

HEADQUARTERS

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STATE OFFICE

1225 8th Street, Suite 240
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NATIONAL OFFICE

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pilot program far exceeded its initial goals of bolstering existing removal defense efforts, increasing capacity, and enhancing and expanding access to legal services.

Justice and dignity for immigrants is fundamental to our recovery and our ability to live into our vision of anti-racism as a city. Through March 31, 2020, LAJF provided legal representation that resulted in 62% positive outcomes, compared to only 23% of immigrants without counsel nationally who were able to obtain immigration relief.¹ Everyone at risk of deportation deserves a fair day in court even if they cannot afford an attorney.

CHIRLA respectfully urges the City of Los Angeles Council, the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee, and the Budget and Finance Committee to build on their commitment to immigrant communities by funding a universal representation model (as outlined in the CLA report under Option 1A, Option 2B, and Option 3B) that engages the realities of those navigating the intersections of complex bureaucratic immigration processes and the legacy of systemic racism and xenophobia within the criminal justice system. We applaud your leadership in uplifting the intersectional needs of immigrant communities.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Maria Jose Vides at mvides@chirla.org and Esperanza Guevara at eguevara@chirla.org.

Respectfully,

Esperanza A. Guevara

Esperanza A. Guevara
Deputy Director, Policy and Advocacy

Maria Jose Vides

Maria Jose Vides
Regional Policy Advocate

CC:
Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst, Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Los Angeles City Council

¹ American Immigration Council.

<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/access-counsel-immigration-court>



Communication from Public

Name: Esperanza Community Housing

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 02:29 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: We support of the LA Justice Fund and urge you to vote the right way on item 1 and approve the Items 1A, 2B, & 3B of the CLA Report. There should be no exclusions. The City must reaffirm its commitment to protect immigrant Angelenos, a valuable part of this city's social fabric. We urge you to create a permanent, holistic, merit-blind program for legal representation in immigration court to ensure due process for all! We must reject this false narrative of a good versus a bad immigrant, where we choose who deserves justice and who does not. It was created by a racist criminal system and perpetuated in our equally racist and xenophobic immigration system. The stakes are high: immigrants of color are racially profiled and criminalized are then funneled into the detention and deportation machinery with Black migrants, especially, being disproportionately vulnerable to immigration enforcement and deportation. Prisons and jails are primary feeders into immigration detention. They deny our humanity and tear apart families and communities. We deserve better. You have the power to act. Please stand and defend individuals who call Los Angeles their home. The choice is clear. Vote for 1A, 2B, and 3B of the CLA report and ensure due process for all. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Helen 'Elena' Chavez

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 03:22 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the Los Angeles Justice Fund and to urge each member of the Committee to approve continued funding and eligibility changes to the program. The LA Justice fund must be accessible to all those who need legal representation regardless of criminal history. Immigrants make up 36.3% of Los Angeles total population, 51.4% of the city's business owners, and 71.75% of the essential workers. Immigrants are crucial to our communities. Immigrants facing deportation and a complicated immigration system deserve a fair trial and the support of a trained attorney. As a decade long resident of Los Angeles, I am incredibly proud of the diversity and beauty of our city— all of which would not be possible without immigrants, who have suffered the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. The LA Justice Fund is an investment in the safety of immigrant Angelenos, who have built our City and continue to pour into it. I call on the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee to responsibly carry out its commitment to build a better Los Angeles for immigrants and invest in the Los Angeles Justice Fund, a program that will protect their civil rights.

Communication from Public

Name: SHAKEEL SYED

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 05:46 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, This is Shakeel Syed from South Asian Network, a 30 year old non-profit direct services organization having served more than 25,000 residents of Los Angeles. I am calling in support of the LA Justice Fund and urge you to vote the right way on item 1 and approve options 1A, 2B, & 3B of the CLA Report. There should be no exclusions. The City must reaffirm its commitment to protect immigrant Angelenos, a valuable part of this city's social fabric. We urge you to create a permanent, holistic, merit-blind program for legal representation in immigration court to ensure due process for all! We must reject this false narrative of a good versus a bad immigrant, where we choose who deserves justice and who does not. It was created by a racist criminal system and perpetuated in our equally racist and xenophobic immigration system. The stakes are high: immigrants of color are racially profiled and criminalized are then funneled into the detention and deportation machinery with Black migrants, especially, being disproportionately vulnerable to immigration enforcement and deportation. Prisons and jails are primary feeders into immigration detention. They deny our humanity and tear apart families and communities. We deserve better. You have the power to act. Stand and defend individuals who call Los Angeles their home. Today, you decide which side you stand on. The choice is clear. Vote for 1A, 2B, and 3B of the CLA report and ensure due process for all. Thank you. Shakeel Syed Executive Director T 310-384-7791 E shakeel@southasiannetwork.org

Communication from Public

Name: Erich Bollmann

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 06:14 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, As a neighbor, friend, colleague, and grandchild of immigrants, I'm writing in support of the LA Justice Fund and urge you to vote the right way on item 1 and approve options 1A, 2B, & 3B of the CLA Report. There should be no exclusions. The City must reaffirm its commitment to protect immigrant Angelenos, a valuable part of this city's social fabric. We urge you to create a permanent, holistic, merit-blind program for legal representation in immigration court to ensure due process for all! We must reject this false narrative of a good versus a bad immigrant, where we choose who deserves justice and who does not. It was created by a racist criminal system and perpetuated in our equally racist and xenophobic immigration system. The stakes are high: immigrants of color are racially profiled and criminalized are then funneled into the detention and deportation machinery with Black migrants, especially, being disproportionately vulnerable to immigration enforcement and deportation. Prisons and jails are primary feeders into immigration detention. They deny our humanity and tear apart families and communities. We deserve better. Immigrants are part of our community and we are immigrants. Strongly urging you to stand and defend everyone who calls Los Angeles their home. Please vote for 1A, 2B, and 3B of the CLA report and ensure due process for all. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Communication from Public

Name: Pablo Ordonez Bravo

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 04:49 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the Los Angeles Justice Fund and to urge each member of the Committee to approve continued funding and eligibility changes to the program. The LA Justice fund must be accessible to all those who need legal representation regardless of criminal history. Immigrants make up 36.3% of Los Angeles total population, 51.4% of the city's business owners, and 71.75% of the essential workers. Immigrants are crucial to our communities. Immigrants facing deportation and a complicated immigration system deserve a fair trial and the support of a trained attorney. As a [long time] resident of Los Angeles, I am incredibly proud of the diversity and beauty of our city– all of which would not be possible without immigrants, who have suffered the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. The LA Justice Fund is an investment in the safety of immigrant Angelenos, who have built our City and continue to pour into it. I call on the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee to responsibly carry out its commitment to build a better Los Angeles for immigrants and invest in the Los Angeles Justice Fund, a program that will protect their civil rights.

Communication from Public

Name: Karina Ramos
Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 05:08 PM
Council File No: 17-0046-S2
Comments for Public Posting: Support LA Justice Fund!

Communication from Public

Name: Enswert

Date Submitted: 01/19/2022 03:34 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the Los Angeles Justice Fund and to urge each member of the Committee to approve continued funding and eligibility changes to the program. The LA Justice fund must be accessible to all those who need legal representation regardless of criminal history. Immigrants make up 36.3% of Los Angeles total population, 51.4% of the city's business owners, and 71.75% of the essential workers. Immigrants are crucial to our communities. Immigrants facing deportation and a complicated immigration system deserve a fair trial and the support of a trained attorney. As a resident of Los Angeles, I am incredibly proud of the diversity and beauty of our city— all of which would not be possible without immigrants, who have suffered the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. The LA Justice Fund is an investment in the safety of immigrant Angelenos, who have built our City and continue to pour into it. I call on the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee to responsibly carry out its commitment to build a better Los Angeles for immigrants and invest in the Los Angeles Justice Fund, a program that will protect their civil rights.