

Communication from Public

Name: Scott W Doyle

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 12:23 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: In 1963, the Supreme Court voted that states must provide legal representation to defendants in criminal court who cannot afford it. It should have happened long before then. But a group of advocates in Los Angeles didn't wait for the federal government to act. 50 years earlier, they formed the nation's first public defender's office. Now the City of LA has the chance to right another wrong: the fact that there is no such guarantee to counsel in immigration court. Unfortunately, LA will not be leading this time, but playing catch-up. Across the country, at least 2 dozen local governments have adopted a public defender style program to provide legal defense to immigrants facing detention & deportation. Immigration is technically a civil matter. But decisions made in immigration court can have life and death consequences. It is imperative that we build on the right to due process in criminal court and insist on the same right in immigration court. We should work toward a day when this right is guaranteed at the federal level. But in the meantime, just as the public defender movement began locally, right here in Los Angeles, it is local governments who must step up and right this wrong.

Communication from Public

Name: Andy

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 02:37 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: This is Andy a community member. 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Sammy Bryant

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 06:00 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, This is community member Sam Bryant. 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Shayne Walton

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 06:53 AM

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: Emma

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 08:53 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: 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.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Millerman

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 08:59 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Matt Millerman. I am a high school English teacher in Watts. I am writing to urge the LA City Council to make the LA Justice Fund a permanent, wholly funded program. The population of Los Angeles is upward of 35% immigrants. In the context of the mythology of the US being a country of immigrants, this makes Los Angeles perhaps the most American of cities. Yet, the number of immigrants in detention has increased dramatically with the growth of tough on crime policies. Incarcerating the people that are the backbone of our city, and what it means to be an Angeleno and an American, is morally wrong as well as a conflict of interest. Since over 70% of immigrants who are detained do not have legal representation, there is no relief for these vulnerable individuals. I am in support of measures 1a, 2a, and 3b so that the city joins the county in support of the LA Justice Fund, the program can take on new cases and fund existing cases, and criminal carve outs should be eliminated. Keeping the criminal carveouts might seem like an obvious choice, but the over-policing of black and brown people is unjust, and sweeps community members into a deportation pipeline. Providing legal defense for the most vulnerable people who have been criminalized is doing the least in our so-called progressive city. Streamlining the complicated and punitive deportation apparatus would be a much more humane and radical intervention. Funding LAJF is just giving a chance to someone who had been expected to hit a home run without so much as a bat. The LAJF is not radical--it's just right. Funding the LAJF on a permanent basis is a common sense decision. It is not free, but public services are not free.

Communication from Public

Name: Maraky Alemseged

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 09:21 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, This is Maraky from the Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI). I am writing in strong 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 & racial justice 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 & racial justice for all.

Communication from Public

Name: Maraky

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 09:26 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, This is Maraky from Black Lives Matter LA. I am writing in strong 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 & racial justice 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 & racial justice for all.

Communication from Public

Name: Guillermo Torres

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 09:40 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council Members, My name is Guillermo Torres, Director of Programing for CLUE-Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, an Interfaith Religious Organization. I am writing you to urge you to moved forward with the LA Justice Fund permanently so that we can ensure that those most directly affected by past and current unjust systems of oppression can be assure of due process. You must make sure that immigrants do not get punished twice by ending up locked up at horrific immigration detention centers that have a horrific history of abuse and medical negligence. In addition, we must make sure to remove criminal exclusions who serve to punish folks twice. These exclusions go against my Christian values of forgiveness, justice and restoration. Even Jesus, when asked about forgiveness from one of his disciples made sure his disciples knew the extend of forgiveness and restoration. At the cross Jesus also showed the example of being inclusive and restoration when he welcomed one of the man next to him into paradise, even do the man had a past that was far from perfect. So please, in the name of the Holy One I urge to do what Christ would do at this moment. Sincerely, Guillermo Torres

Communication from Public

Name: Shiu Ming Cheer

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 09:47 AM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Shiu-Ming Cheer and I am the Deputy Director of Programs and Campaigns at the California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC), which is headquartered in Los Angeles. I am writing to express CIPC's full support for the LA Justice Fund and urge you to approve options 1A, 2B, & 3B of the CLA Report. We support the establishment of a permanent, holistic Immigrant Legal Services program for Angelenos facing detention and deportation, regardless of case merit or past contact with the criminal system. It would be a critical local safety net for immigrant communities in Los Angeles. This program would build on the success of the LA Justice Fund, which has been a lifeline to immigrants facing permanent separation from their loved ones. After seeing the success of the LAJF partnership in 2017, dozens of localities across the country followed LA's example and funded deportation defense programs. However, now LA has fallen behind in maintaining and expanding a deportation defense program. For example, Houston, Texas started a \$2.5 million dollar fund and last year the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved \$5 million for an immigrant legal defense program. Funding for deportation defense has been sustained or increased in other places across the country as part of a broader effort to spend less on policing and more on communities. Los Angeles City must do the same and ensure that vulnerable neighbors are not left behind when support is needed the most. This country's harsh and unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Funding a holistic legal defense program is a matter of racial justice and of immigrant rights. We have all heard about the unequal treatment of people of color by the criminal legal system: people of color are more likely to be stopped by police, searched, charged with crimes, prosecuted and convicted, and are sentenced more severely. The disparate racial impacts of policing and the criminal justice system extend to the immigration system, where black immigrants are more likely to face immigration detention and deportation than other groups. Immigrants of color who face deportation on criminal grounds therefore face a double penalty. By providing representation for all without regard to a person's contact with the criminal system, the Immigrant Legal Services program will be a key part of addressing the structural and

historical inequities affecting the immigrant community. The proposed program must have a merit blind model that promotes racial justice and racial equity. Our families and communities are stronger, safer and healthier when we come together and stand up for those most in need at times like this. The choice is clear. Vote for 1A, 2B, and 3B of the CLA report and ensure due process for all.

Communication from Public

Name: JeaDa Elaine Lay

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 10:16 AM

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.

Communication from Public

Name: Ana Y. Martinez

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 11:56 AM

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 por 42 años, estoy increíblemente orgullosa 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: Guadalupe

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 12:25 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon members of the Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee. My name is Guadalupe and I am a CHIRLA member and resident of Los Angeles. I am calling 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. The LA Justice Fund is an investment in the safety of immigrant Angelenos, who deserve a fair trial and the support of a trained attorney.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/20/2022 12:25 PM

Council File No: 17-0046-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, My name is Kareena and I am an immigrant and Los Angeles County resident. I write 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, Kareena K.