



HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
COUNCILMEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT

November 17, 2016

Los Angeles City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street, Fourth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES –  
IMMIGRATION, FEDERAL FUNDING, AND OUR RESIDENTS**

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

In the aftermath of the election of Donald J. Trump as President of the United States, many residents throughout the City of Los Angeles and our region are deeply concerned about the uncertainty that change will bring with respect to immigration policies, funding, and law enforcement over the duration of a Trump presidency. **These concerns should not be underestimated.**

As one of the most diverse cities in the United States of America, the City of Los Angeles is a melting pot of ethnic groups, languages, religions, and a place called home by large immigrant and migrant populations coming here from all over the world. Not only do we have communities named Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, Chinatown, Little Bangladesh, Thai Town, Little Ethiopia, Little Tokyo, and Little Armenia, the City of Los Angeles has one of the largest populations (and many times the largest) of various ethnic groups outside of their country of origin as well. Just a few examples include Mexicans, Salvadorans, Hondurans, Nicaraguans, Ethiopians, Lebanese, Iranians, Armenians, Israelis, Saudi Arabians, Bosnians, Puerto Ricans, Pacific Islanders, Burmese, Cambodians, Chinese, Filipinos, Indonesians, Koreans, Sri Lankans, and Thai. This does not even begin to take into account our religious diversity that has made the City of Los Angeles home to the fourth largest Muslim population in the United States, as well as the second largest Jewish population in the country.

According to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey, with a population of over 3.8 million people, approximately 38.6 percent (1.49 million) of the City of Los Angeles' residents are foreign-born, and 57.3 percent (853,721) of foreign born residents in the City are not currently citizens. This translates to the very real possibility that **one out of every five Angelenos are likely to be affected by changes to immigration policies, funding, and enforcement at the federal level.**



As members of the Los Angeles City Council, it is our responsibility to protect and enhance the quality of life for all of our residents regardless of national origin, religion, ethnic group, language, sexual orientation, gender, marital status or immigration status. It is imperative that as residents and leaders of the greatest city on the planet, we need to educate and prepare ourselves to defend our values, to defend our quality of life, to defend keeping students and families together, and to defend our neighborhoods from any attempts to change what makes our City so great ... the people.

**On Tuesday November 22nd, I will be introducing a motion that will begin the City Council's preparation for the work ahead.** This motion will include recommendations for reports from our Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer to provide information related to:

1. Identifying the roles and responsibilities of an Immigrant Advocate to be appointed by the City Council and to work in conjunction with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
2. Creating an Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant Affairs to develop a comprehensive set of strategies and plans
3. Defining the term "sanctuary city" and how that term might apply to the City of Los Angeles
4. Identifying and categorizing all federal grants, loans, and other funding that the City of Los Angeles currently receives
5. Identifying all state laws applicable to immigration and relevant to the City of Los Angeles that may come into conflict with potential changes in federal law
6. Working with the Los Angeles Unified School District and Los Angeles Community College District to identify mutual areas of concern and coordinate strategies to protect students and keep families together
7. Collaborating with all levels of local government, including the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California to develop strategies, legislative, and legal action to protect our residents

While we have done great work on behalf of this City and its residents over the last five years, it is even more important that we look to the future and what lies before us. I invite you to contact me with suggestions, information, or any questions you might have related to this motion. Although the road ahead is uncertain for the entire country, the welfare and well-being of the residents of the City of Los Angeles is paramount to our daily responsibility as their leaders.

Warm Regards,



**HERB J. WESSON, JR.**  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
City Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: The Honorable Eric Garcetti, Mayor  
The Honorable Mike Feuer, City Attorney  
The Honorable Ron Galperin, City Controller  
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Miguel Santana, Chief Administrative Officer