

DIRECTOR'S MOTION: Jakob Meuser

**TITLE: STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT IN LOS ANGELES**

PURPOSE: To express the view and concern of the MVCC that the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Karen Bass have failed to adequately enforce The City of Los Angeles's sanctuary policy, including Ordinance No. 188441, in the face of overreach by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

BACKGROUND: The City of Los Angeles is not taking adequate steps to protect undocumented residents. DHS and ICE are employing unconstitutional racial profiling in their detention of Angelenos. The MVCC's primary purpose is to bring the concerns of our community to the attention of the city council.

Los Angeles has declared itself a Sanctuary City and adopted state and local laws, including the California Values Act (SB 54), Special Order 40, and the 2024 City Sanctuary Ordinance, to prevent the use of City resources for civil immigration enforcement.

Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Los Angeles including detentions of day laborers, construction workers, and families near community facilities, have created fear and confusion among immigrant Angelenos and risk violating state law and constitutional protections.

Community members and organizations, including West Los Respuesta Rápida, have documented ICE activity on the Westside, while City departments such as the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Public Libraries and City-controlled transit operators, including LADOT bus and DASH drivers, have not yet received clear, public guidance on how to respond to federal agents lacking judicial warrants and have previously faced discipline or termination after refusing to cooperate with immigration enforcement.

MOTION: That the MVCC transmits the following letter to the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Bass.

Dear Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Karen Bass,

On December 4, 2024, the Los Angeles City Council adopted [Ordinance No. 188441](#). It requires that no City resources, including personnel and property, be utilized to do any of the following: (1) “[i]nquire into or collect information about an individual’s Citizenship or Immigration Status” except in certain circumstances”; (2) “[i]nvestigate, cite, arrest, hold, transfer, or detain any person for the purpose of Immigration Enforcement, except as authorized under California Government Code Section 7284.6(b)(1)”; (3) “[r]espond to any administrative warrant or other request to detain, transfer, or notify any Immigration Agent about the status or release of any individual for the purpose of Immigration Enforcement”; (4) provide agents access to any non-public areas of City property; (5) make any person in City custody available to any agent for an interview for the purpose of immigration enforcement; or (6) participate in immigration enforcement.

Since then, the Trump Administration has actively targeted Los Angeles in aggressive immigration enforcement actions. The Mar Vista Community Council (“MVCC”) stands with our entire neighborhood, including our undocumented neighbors and fellow citizens who fit the Federal Government’s illegal racial profiling practices, and vehemently opposes the community-destroying and fear-mongering tactics of the administration. The MVCC further condemns the use of military force on civilians and the racial profiling-based detainment of Angelenos conducted by the DHS and ICE. Indeed, the administration’s deployment of National Guard and U.S. Marine Corps to suppress anti-ICE protests has been [found to be illegal](#) by a federal judge from the Northern District of California. New reports suggest that the government [plans to increase enforcement actions in sanctuary cities](#), including Los Angeles. According to census data, of the 122,028 people who reside in the Mar Vista, Del Rey, and Palms neighborhoods, 14,933, or 13.3%, [are not citizens](#) and many are undocumented.

It is imperative that the City, led by Mayor Karen Bass, use every resource at its disposal to stop the violation of our residents’ rights. Recent immigration enforcement actions have been characterized by rampant racial profiling, with the detention of individuals based on skin color without regard to citizenship status. Such actions are an affront to our democratic ideals and the rule of law. As Justice Sotomayor noted in her dissent to the Supreme Court’s recent unexplained order staying the enforcement of an injunction which prohibited continued racial profiling in Los Angeles, “The Fourth Amendment thus prohibits exactly what the Government is attempting to do here: seize individuals based solely on a set of facts that “describe[s] a very large category of presumably innocent” people. [Citation]. As the District Court correctly held, the four factors—apparent race or

ethnicity, speaking Spanish or English with an accent, location, and type of work—are “no more indicative of illegal presence in the country than of legal presence.” (Sotomayor, J., dissenting, *Noem v. Perdomo* (2025), order filed September 8, 2025.) The City possesses power to protect its residents. “We should not have to live in a country where the Government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish, and appears to work a low wage job.” (*Ibid.*)

The MVCC recognizes that the federal government wields great power over immigration enforcement actions. However, we as a City have a duty to protect our residents, neighbors, and friends from executive overreach and race-based detention. The MVCC views the current efforts of Mayor Bass and the City Council to protect undocumented residents as insufficient. The City should do everything in its power to defend residents from government overreach in violation of the 4th Amendment, especially by following its own codified sanctuary policies.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Mar Vista Community Council calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Karen Bass to:

Direct all City departments, including LAPD, LAFD, Recreation & Parks, LA Public Libraries, and LADOT, to refuse cooperation with ICE or any civil immigration enforcement activity absent a judicial warrant signed by a federal judge or magistrate.

Require City staff to verify federal identification for any person claiming to be a law enforcement officer and report impersonation or unlawful detentions to the City Attorney for investigation and prosecution.

Instruct the City Attorney and Civil and Human Rights Department to issue department-wide training, signage, and protocols affirming residents’ rights under SB 54 and the City’s Sanctuary Ordinance, including explicit protections for City transit operators and contractors.

Establish a rapid-response coordination protocol with immigrant-rights and legal-aid organizations to monitor ICE activity, provide legal assistance, and ensure community safety.

Implement and publicly report a citywide data-protection policy limiting the collection and sharing of personal or immigration-status information.

Therefore be it further resolved, that the Mar Vista Community Council urges the City Council to reaffirm Los Angeles’ status as a true Sanctuary City by ensuring no City resource, including personnel, facilities, data, or transit infrastructure, is used to assist federal immigration enforcement.