

BOARD MEMBER MOTION: Sarah Mahir and Lisa Redmond

TITLE: STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS AGAINST UNLAWFUL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IN LOS ANGELES

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

DESCRIPTION: 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 VNC's primary purpose is to bring the concerns of our community to the attention of the City Council and elected leaders.

BACKGROUND: 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, car wash and restaurant employees, 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 in Venice and 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: The VNC will transmit the following letter to Mayor Karen Bass, CD11 Councilmember Traci Park and the Los Angeles City Council, and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto.

Dear Mayor Bass, Councilmember Traci Park, Los Angeles City Council and City Attorney Feldstein Soto,

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 Venice Neighborhood Council (“VNC”) 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 VNC 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 Los Angeles Department of Planning data, of the 34,247 people who reside in Venice, 3,834, or 11.1%, more than one in 10, [are not citizens](#) and many are undocumented. This is compounded even further by our neighboring communities of Mar Vista, Del Rey and Palms where 122,028 people reside and 14,933, or 13.3%, [are not citizens](#).

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 VNC 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 VNC views the current efforts of Mayor Bass, the City Council and City Attorney Feldstein Soto 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 Venice Neighborhood Council calls on Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Traci Park and the Los Angeles City Council, and City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto 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 the 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 Venice Neighborhood 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.

Finally, this letter also avows the VNC's motion passed on June 17, 2025, copied below.

Respectfully,

Venice Neighborhood Council

Motion to Condemn ICE Operations in Venice and Greater Los Angeles

WHEREAS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has conducted operations in the Venice community and throughout Los Angeles that have included warrantless raids, community surveillance, and arrests without proper judicial oversight;

WHEREAS, these operations have caused fear and trauma among residents, particularly immigrant and undocumented communities, regardless of citizenship status;

WHEREAS, such actions raise serious concerns about violations of constitutional protections, including the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures and the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments guaranteeing due process of law;

WHEREAS, the Venice community is home to a diverse population, including immigrants who contribute significantly to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the neighborhood;

WHEREAS, the values of the Venice Neighborhood Council include inclusion, equity, and the protection of civil and human rights;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Venice Neighborhood Council formally condemns ICE operations that violate due process, constitutional protections, and the dignity of individuals residing, working and going to school in, as well as visiting, our community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Venice Neighborhood Council urges our city officials, including CD11 Councilmember Traci Park, Mayor Karen Bass, City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto and Police Chief Jim McDonnell, to investigate and oppose any ICE activities that undermine civil liberties, and to provide support and legal resources for affected residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Venice Neighborhood Council commits to working with local officials to ensure that Venice remains a safe and welcoming community for all residents, workers, students and visitors, regardless of immigration status.