



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

February 10, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 54 (de León) – The California Values Act

Dear Senate Pro Tempore de León:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to express the City's *support as amended* position on SB 54 (de León). On February 7, 2017, the Long Beach City Council approved a motion to support State legislation that protects immigrants who positively contribute to our local communities and California's economy. With respect to SB 54, the City Council requests amendments to ensure:

- Local law enforcement agencies have clear discretion to partner with federal law enforcement agencies to combat serious and violent crimes; and
- Participate in multi-agency federal task force operations with the intent of fighting organized crime such as human trafficking and drug trafficking.

As a vibrant, multi-cultural city, Long Beach thrives on the ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and diversity of our immigrant communities and American-born residents. Over 40% of the Long Beach population identifies as Latino, and 12% identify as Asian. It is also believed that Long Beach has the largest Cambodian population outside of Southeast Asia; and many Cambodians in Long Beach came to the United States as immigrants and refugees from 1975 to 1979. The United States Census Bureau reports 1 in 4 people living in Long Beach identify as foreign-born.

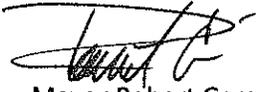
The City considers our diversity to be part of our economic strength. Since 2012, business in downtown Long Beach has doubled. In March 2016, the unemployment rate in Long Beach reached a nine-year low; and in 2016, revenue per available Long Beach Hotel room increased 8.8% over 2015 levels, reflecting an increase in tourism and convention attendance. Clearly, Long Beach is a safe city, and our economy is growing as a reflection of that fact.

Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States government and other countries. It is reasonable that SB 54 limits State and local law enforcement agencies from using money, facilities, property, and equipment to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest individuals for immigration enforcement purposes. Long Beach, along with other major cities and the State of California, believe enforcing immigration at the local level undermines the trust and cooperation with immigrant communities, which are essential elements of community oriented policing.

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Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to join over 50 organizations from across California, in support of SB 54 (de León). Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District