



Date: February 9, 2018
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *PLW*
Subject: Long Beach Values Act – Local Policy Update

Background

At its September 19, 2017 meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager, through the Office of Equity, to partner with local immigrant rights organizations, the Sanctuary Long Beach Coalition (Coalition), Centro CHA, California State University Long Beach (CSULB), Long Beach City College, and the Long Beach Unified School District to develop a local policy that expands on immigrant protections in California Senate Bill 54 (SB 54). Policy considerations to be included were as follows:

- Protecting and advocating for local DACA and DREAMER students;
- Preventing future deportations of Long Beach residents;
- Examining partnerships with L.A. County for a local legal defense fund;
- Protecting the confidentiality of local immigrant residents and their information, and ensuring no City resources are used to create registries based on religious affiliation, immigration status or any other protected class such as gender, sexual orientation, race, etc.; and,
- Affirming an aggressive approach to advocating at the federal and state level for pro-immigrant policies.

Policy Development

Staff began the policy development process with a comprehensive stakeholder analysis and engagement of an interdepartmental team, including the Office of Equity, Police Department, City Attorney, and Office of Government Affairs. This initial step provided the foundation on which to effectively assess relevant issues; identify a method for facilitating community and organizational engagement and consensus during the policy development process; and, ultimately, to develop a local policy consistent with City Council direction.

Community engagement was identified as the immediate priority after the stakeholder analysis, and the City team initiated a series of listening sessions with key community stakeholders. Listening sessions were held with the (“Coalition”), including an initial session on September 29, 2017, with the Deputy City Manager and Office of Equity, and a follow-up session on October 16, 2017.

The initial session provided an opportunity for staff to get acquainted with Coalition members, listen to their concerns, and establish a basis for working together. In the follow-up session, Coalition members discussed their specific policy recommendations with City staff from City Manager's Office, Office of Equity, Police Department and City Attorney's Office. Listening sessions were also held with Centro CHA on October 16, 2017, CSULB Police on November 2, 2017, and the CSULB Dream Center on November 7, 2017.

Based on City Council direction and input from the listening sessions, staff identified three core policy considerations for further analysis and development: (1) a local policy that protects sensitive information and limits the use of City resources for assisting with enforcement of federal immigration law; (2) state and federal legislative advocacy; and, (3) enhancing access to legal representation for Long Beach residents facing deportation. The following is a summary of actions staff has conducted to address these policy considerations:

- Analyzed related policies from 28 California cities;
- Conducted a comparative analysis of SB 54, Coalition policy recommendations and the current policies and practices of the Police Department concerning the handling of sensitive information and assisting with enforcement of federal immigration law;
- Created a draft local policy that expands on SB 54, contains provisions for protecting sensitive information and limiting the use of City resources for assisting with enforcement of federal immigration law, and seeks to ensure compliance with 8 U.S.C. § 1373 and the City's eligibility for federal grant funding;
- Met with the State and Federal Legislative Committees on November 21, 2017 to review recommendations for the City's 2018 State and Federal Legislative agendas, concerning due process protections and deferred action from deportation for immigrant-residents of Long Beach; and,
- Conducted an analysis of the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) and similar initiatives within the region, state, and nation offering legal representation and/or family support services to immigrants facing deportation via contracts with nonprofit legal and/or community service providers; and outlining options and cost assumptions for enhancing access to legal representation for immigrant-residents of Long Beach, beyond what is offered by the LAJF.

Status of Policy Considerations

The following is a summary of the status of the three previously discussed policy considerations:

1. *Local Policy* – The draft policy is currently undergoing a final administrative and legal review.
2. *2018 State and Federal Legislative Agendas* – the City Council approved the State and Federal Legislative Agendas on January 23, 2017.

3. *Local Legal Defense Fund* – Conceptual options, including cost assumptions and relevant partnerships, have been identified for creating a local legal defense fund. Currently, there is no funding budgeted for this activity.

Next Steps

Staff is in the process of finalizing the administrative and legal review of the draft policy, including an assessment of the need for meet and confer with any bargaining units. On February 13, 2018, staff will conduct a follow-up meeting with the Coalition. It is anticipated that a final draft policy will be ready for City Council review on March 13, 2018, barring any unresolved meet and confer issues.

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