



**City of Long Beach**  
*Working Together to Serve*

**Memorandum**

Date: April 16, 2019  
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.W.*  
Subject: **Update on the Long Beach Justice Fund**

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As directed by the City Council on December 4, 2018, staff executed a two-year contract in the form of a SAFE (Safety and Fairness for Everyone) Cities Network Agreement (Agreement) with the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera), to establish a legal defense fund and program (Long Beach Justice Fund), for providing legal representation to low-income individuals residing or working in Long Beach and facing deportation. Vera is expected to perform the following services as part of the Agreement:

- Coordinate an RFP process in partnership with the City and community stakeholders to identify and subcontract with a non-profit legal service provider(s);
- Manage, evaluate, and help promote the legal defense fund and program;
- Administer program funding and establish a method to accept charitable donations;
- Provide as-needed technical assistance to the selected legal service provider(s); and,
- Provide City officials with a forum to share best practices and information with officials from other jurisdictions within the SAFE Cities Network.

On December 21, 2018, staff submitted an updated Letter of Interest and application to Vera for the \$100,000 catalyst grant and participated in a related follow-up interview with Vera in late February 2019. On March 11, 2019, Vera announced the City will be offered member status in the SAFE Cities Network and awarded the \$100,000 catalyst grant to supplement the City's one-time \$250,000 contribution to the Long Beach Justice Fund. Vera based its decision on the City's program design and commitment to best practices.

In January 2019, staff began working with Vera and community members representing the Human Relations Commission and Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition (RFP review committee) to determine the specific requirements and timeline for the RFP process to select a legal service provider(s). The RFP was posted on the Office of Equity webpage and emailed to local legal service providers, the Long Beach and Los Angeles County Bar associations, and grantees of the LA Justice Fund on February 18, 2019. Vera received two proposals, one from the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and one from Immigrant Defenders Law Center. On March 25, 2019, the RFP review committee identified the proposal from Immigrant Defenders Law Center as the most responsive to the RFP criteria. Vera is currently negotiating a contract and developing the program operational plan with Immigrant Defenders Law Center and expects to conclude this process by the end of April 2019. Immigrant Defenders Law Center anticipates beginning services for the Long Beach Justice Fund under contract on May 1, 2019 and representing clients by June 2019.

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[Immigrant Defenders Law Center](#) was founded in 2015 and has grown to become the largest nonprofit provider of deportation legal defense services in Southern California. Additionally, Immigrant Defenders Law Center is currently providing services successfully for the LA Justice Fund.

Additional background information on the Long Beach Values Act is available on the City Manager's webpage at <http://www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/long-beach-values-act/>, and to stay updated on information regarding the Long Beach Justice Fund, residents can visit <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/healthy-living/office-of-equity/long-beach-immigration-resources/>.

Please contact Deputy City Manager Kevin Jackson at (562) 570-5028 with any questions.

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DEPARTMENT HEADS