



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA CITY OF LONG BEACH

July 13, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
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 of SB 54 (de León). Long Beach supports State legislation that protects immigrants who positively contribute to our communities and to California's economy. The City also appreciates amendments to this bill that ensure law enforcement agencies have clear discretion to partner with federal law enforcement agencies to combat serious and violent crimes, as well as participate on multi-agency federal task force operations to combat international and domestic terrorism and organized crimes.

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 percent of the Long Beach population identifies as Latino, and 12 percent identify as Asian; it is also believed that Long Beach has the largest Cambodian population outside of Southeast Asia. Since 2012, business in downtown Long Beach has doubled. In June of this year, the unemployment rate in Long Beach hit 4.4 percent—the lowest it has been since the State started collecting data in 1990. Additionally, in 2016, revenue per available Long Beach hotel room increased 8.8 percent over 2015 levels, reflecting an increase in tourism. Clearly, Long Beach is a safe city, and our economy is growing.

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 local resources to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect or arrest individuals solely 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.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach writes in support of SB 54 (de León).

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