

## Communication from Public

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear IACRE Committee, This country's unjust immigration system continues to unfairly target our immigrant communities. Immigration reform has stalled in Congress, and the Biden Administration has chosen to continue many of Trump's harshest policies. It falls on local government to step up and ensure due process for immigrants. A pilot program for deportation defense, the LA Justice Fund, has been an essential lifeline and legal safety net for undocumented community members. The other partners in this program, LA County and two private foundations, have chosen to make this program permanent, and to adopt a universal representation model with no exclusions. I urge this Committee to recommend that the City join them in this effort. Some have likened a universal model of deportation defense to the public defender model we are all familiar with, only in immigration court. There currently is no established right to due process in immigration court. Black immigrants are disproportionately criminalized, making this program especially timely in this moment of racial reckoning. But dozens of local governments fund deportation defense, and undocumented immigrants with legal representation are 10 times more successful than those without. Over 20 local governments have now adopted a universal representation model--including 7 in California alone: San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Ana, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda County. The time is long overdue for Los Angeles, one of the most immigrant-rich cities in the country, to join them. Committee members can vote to do so today by endorsing Option 1A in the CLA report, along with options 2B and 3B. Thank you. Anthony Ng Resident of Council District 6