

MOTION **BUDGET & FINANCE**
CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY, IMMIGRATION,
AGING AND DISABILITY

Across the country, undocumented veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces continue to face the threat of deportation, and many have already been deported due to gaps in federal immigration policy and barriers to accessing legal relief. Many of these individuals have lived in the United States since childhood, enlisted to defend our nation, and returned home with service-connected trauma, yet now find themselves vulnerable to removal proceedings and separated from the very country they served.

The City has long recognized the need to support immigrant and undocumented veterans, including those who have been deported and are navigating complex legal pathways to return home. A recent motion introduced by Council District 14, Council File 17-0046-S4, helped to identify a potential one million dollars in the Unappropriated Balance that could be used to advance these efforts. As we look to enhance immigrant legal services, there is an opportunity for the City to direct resources toward legal support for deported veterans as well.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council transfer \$250,000 from the Unappropriated Balance Fund 100/58, Equipment Expenses, and Alterations and Improvements, to the Community Investment for Families Fund 100/21, Account No. 003040, Contractual Services to increase funding for legal services, case management, and related support for detained and non-detained United States military veterans provided by the RepresentLA program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Community Investment for Families Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, to prepare and present an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to allocate one-time funding of \$250,000 to provide detained and non-detained merits-blind removal defense representation, affirmative immigration relief representation, and outreach and education to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, who reside or intend to reside in the City of Los Angeles, through the RepresentLA Program Administrator.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Community Investment for Families Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, be authorized to make any corrections or revisions to the above instructions, including any new instructions, in order to effectuate the intent of this Motion, including any corrections and changes to fund or account numbers; said corrections/clarifications/changes may be made orally, electronically or by any other means.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District



ORIGINAL


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