

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 1954, democratically elected Guatemalan president Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán was overthrown in a CIA-sponsored coup de état to protect the profits of the United Fruit Company and other US interests in Guatemala.

WHEREAS, this coup de état ended the "Ten Years of Spring", fostered by Presidents Juan Jose Arévalo and Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán, whose achievements included a widely successful literacy campaign, a largely free election process, an ambitious land-reform program, known as Decree 900.

WHEREAS, the Guatemalan President Árbenz was replaced by decades of brutal U.S.-backed and trained regimes who committed widespread torture and genocide leading to the forced migration of millions of Guatemalans from their homeland to find safety in the US; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is committed to and continues to maintain a long history of supporting, celebrating and empowering immigrants and refugees, many of whom are escaping corrupt governments, natural disasters, and prolonged civil wars; and

WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was created by Congress in 1990 as a form of immigration status and an administrative authority used by the executive branch that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot safely return to their home countries; and

WHEREAS, since 1991, the United States has granted TPS to immigrants from El Salvador, and re-designated El Salvador as a TPS recipient in 2001.

WHEREAS, immigrants from Nicaragua and Honduras were also designated as TPS recipients in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala has *never been granted TPS* despite Guatemala sharing the same challenges as with natural disasters as other Central American countries and whose past governments have been embroiled in corruption alongside paramilitary structures who persist in harming or killing an alarming number of those Guatemalans committed to social justice, agrarian reform, and the expansion of women's and indigenous peoples' rights; and

WHEREAS, since 2016, Guatemala has experienced a criminal network stronghold in Guatemala, referred to as the "pact of the corrupt" (*Pacto de Corruptos*), where illicit political and economic networks (as defined by the United Nations' International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala [CICIG]) are coordinated within the State's control and compete for power positions; and

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WHEREAS, those in Guatemala's Congress, high courts, and the Prosecutor's Office have historically ensured impunity, the continuity of corruption, and the criminalization of those they regard as their adversaries by establishing a complex network of interdependence; and

WHEREAS, Guatemalans are the sixth largest Latino group in the US and the second largest Central American population after Salvadorans; and

WHEREAS, there are over 157,000 Guatemalans in the City of Los Angeles and 286,000 in Los Angeles County with Guatemalans making up 5.4 percent of the County's total Latino population, the largest population of Guatemalans outside of Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, Guatemalans living in the US already contribute to local, state, and federal budget coffers through sales tax and, for some, income tax; and

WHEREAS, if Guatemalans are given protections under TPS, they will join other TPS holders who have significantly high levels of labor force participation: 94% of men and 82% of women are working and a time when the US economy desperately needs more workers in key industries such as construction, agriculture, health, and services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-2024 Federal Legislative Program sponsorship and support of any legislative and/or administrative action that would grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Guatemala and provide TPS benefits to all Guatemalans currently residing in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk transmit this Resolution to the President of the United States after it has been adopted by the Council of the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED:



KEVIN DE LEÓN

Councilmember, 14th District



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