

Communication from Public

Name: Sophia Wrench

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Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, My name is Sophia Wrench, I am a staff attorney at Public Counsel and write on behalf of Public Counsel to express my strong support for RepresentLA and Day Labor Centers. We urge you to fund RepresentLA and Day Labor Centers at \$3 million each. Public Counsel, based in Los Angeles, California, is a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to advancing civil rights and racial and economic justice, as well as amplifying the power of its clients through comprehensive legal advocacy. Founded in 1970 and strengthened by a pro bono legal service model, Public Counsel's staff and volunteers seek justice through impact litigation and direct legal services, promote healthy and resilient communities through education and outreach, and support community-led efforts to transform unjust systems in and beyond Los Angeles. Public Counsel's Immigrants' Rights team has decades of experience representing immigrants and currently represents hundreds of immigrants seeking humanitarian relief. RepresentLA's funding of Public Counsel's work has allowed us to serve clients who desperately need legal support for things like removal proceedings where we can help free detained individuals from ICE custody, merits hearings where judges are deciding whether to grant or deny status that will allow them to remain in the United States, applying for asylum, and helping individuals apply for cancellation of removal or bond to keep families together. These services are needed now more than ever because these communities are under direct attack and the flow of individuals needing support has only grown. RepresentLA has made significant strides in its mission, serving over 21,000 people since 2022, including survivors of labor trafficking, asylum seekers, and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. RepresentLA provides critical legal services to vulnerable and diverse immigrant communities who otherwise would not be represented. Day Labor Centers also play a vital role in developing the workforce and helping workers assert their rights—through education, outreach, wage recovery support, and legal referrals. Yet despite this essential work, they have increasingly been targeted by immigration enforcement, with more than 20 raids in the past year and over 100 people taken. Under the Trump Administration, federal immigration enforcement raids and activity have

heightened fear in immigrant communities, showcasing that it is more critical than ever to expand and strengthen RepresentLA and Day Labor Centers' essential services. Given this climate, it is imperative that we continue, expand, and solidify RepresentLA and Day Labor Centers' essential services. I urge you to include \$3 million for RepresentLA and \$3 million for Day Labor Centers in the City's proposed budget for 2026-2027. You can help prevent an interruption in the crucial services that we provide through RepresentLA, which serve our most vulnerable immigrant communities. I urge you to support funding for RepresentLA and Day Labor Centers at \$3 million each. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Sophia Wrench Staff Attorney
Public Counsel