

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, in 2000, Congress passed the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, which established the U nonimmigrant status (U Visa) to offer protections to victims of qualifying criminal activities and strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute certain qualifying crimes; and

WHEREAS, these crimes include rape, torture, trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, and murder, among others; and

WHEREAS, victims of qualifying criminal activities who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse; possess information relevant to the crime; are helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime; and receive certification from an authorized official at a law enforcement agency are eligible to apply for U-Visa status to remain in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 provided an annual cap of 10,000 U Visas nationwide, which has remained unchanged since U Visas were first issued in 2009; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data shows that the number of U-Visa petitions received each year has exceeded 10,000 since 2011, and has resulted in a growing backlog, with applicants waiting five to ten years to receive a final decision; and

WHEREAS, according to a July 2025 Board of Police Commissioners report, the Los Angeles Police Department, who processes U-Visa requests for victims of crimes that have occurred within the City, certified 2,108 U-Visa requests in 2023 and 2,426 requests in 2024, and expects to receive up to 3,000 requests in 2025; and

WHEREAS, while U-Visa applicants are eligible to receive employment authorization, deferred action, and in some cases, parole while their petitions are processing, the U Visa program must be right-sized and the annual cap should be increased by Congress; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the annual U-Visa cap would allow USCIS to process more applications, reduce wait times for eligible applicants, and offer protections to more victims of serious crimes, as well as foster collaboration between law enforcement and vulnerable communities; encourage victims and witnesses to come forward to report crimes; and improve safety for the entire community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-26 Federal Legislative Program, SUPPORT for any legislative and/or administrative action that would increase the annual cap for U Visas in the United States.

PRESENTED BY

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

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