

MOTION

On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump enacted Executive Order 13769, commonly known as the Muslim and African Ban, which indiscriminately barred citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States and indefinitely suspended the entry of Syrian refugees. This discriminatory order upended thousands of lives, resulting in travelers being detained at U.S. airports, subjected to prolonged questioning, or forcibly deported—including many at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the nation's second-busiest airport and a major gateway for international travelers.


In response, thousands of Angelenos mobilized in protest at LAX, demanding the release of detained travelers and an end to the ban. Attorneys from nonprofit legal organizations rushed to the airport to provide emergency legal aid, filing petitions and securing the release of individuals who had been wrongfully detained. However, many attorneys faced logistical barriers in accessing their clients, as there was no dedicated space or infrastructure at LAX to facilitate their critical work.

Enactment of discriminatory immigration policy is not a rare phenomenon. Legal activists and immigration scholars have stated that US immigration authorities have historically targeted people from Muslim, Latin, AAPI and predominantly black countries to deny them of their rights relative to immigration. Recent campaign promises from the 2024 election reinforce this recurring reality, as the President has vowed to enact “the largest deportation operation in American history” and repeatedly targeted immigrants from Latin American countries.

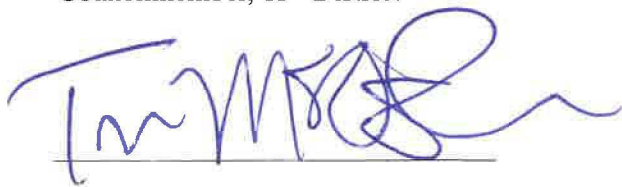
With this in mind, it would be to the benefit of the City's 1.35 million immigrants for the City to take heed of these statements and act with historical awareness by preparing for the possibility of incoming federal actions reminiscent of the Muslim Travel Ban. One way by which to do so is to strengthen the ability for legal service providers to station at LAX and provide free legal counsel for migrants/families/travelers who may find themselves impacted by a similar ban or who may need it.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council request the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) to report back in 30 days on the feasibility of and resources needed to provide any office, storage and/or parking spaces to non-profit immigration legal service providers at the Tom Bradley International Terminal.

PRESENTED BY:


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Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



FEB 04 2025

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