

This past summer, Los Angeles witnessed one of the most frightening federal overreaches of power with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. The LA Times reported that ICE arrests in the Los Angeles region quadrupled from 540 in April to 2,186 in June, with 7 out of every 10 of those arrested having no criminal conviction. The region's surge in arrests of non-criminal immigrants has been more dramatic than the nation as a whole. According to the USC Equity Research Institute, over 2 million people in Los Angeles County are undocumented or living with someone undocumented. Increasingly, U.S. citizens and permanent residents are being targeted as profiling has become a prominent tactic among immigration agents. With the increase in unidentified, masked agents and the blatant disregard for civil rights, it is crucial that Los Angeles residents are educated on how to respond.

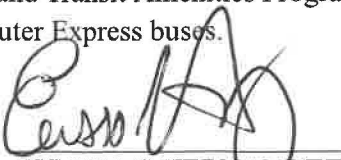
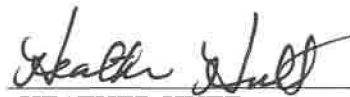
The Bureau of Street Services (BSS) developed the Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP), a city-led initiative to install over 3,400 new and upgraded bus shelters and shade structures while providing an avenue for the City to display advertising and collect revenue for infrastructure improvements. The City also operates the legacy Bus Bench Program, which includes approximately 6,000 benches citywide. Through the STAP program, the City has the ability to utilize a percentage of the advertising space for City-sponsored public education and information campaigns allowing the City to deploy this campaign without negatively affecting advertising revenue. As federal enforcement is set to increase, there is a need to leverage city resources to launch a Know Your Rights campaign to educate residents on their rights when they encounter ICE agents. The STAP program provides a gateway to making this campaign accessible to all Los Angeles residents who use public transit.

The Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) can allocate a number of bus shelters to display important information relevant to the Know Your Rights campaign, such as how to respond and safely exercise their rights inside or outside public transit. Additionally, LADOT can place digital content inside DASH and Commuter Express buses at no additional cost to the City. The Digital displays can project this information in many languages and disability accessible ways with the new and improved amenities coming from STAP. Advertisements can continue as normal to allow continued revenue and further expansion of the program and the Know Your Rights campaign.

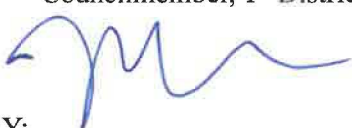
**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD) and the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (CHRED), in consultation with the City Attorney and other reputable immigration rights partners and non-profit organizations, to develop the public service announcement (PSA) artwork and content for Citywide display.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services (BSS), with the assistance of the Department of Transportation (LADOT), CIFD, and CHRED, to initiate a "Know Your Rights" PSA on Sidewalk and Transit Amenities Program (STAP) digital bus shelters and on digital advertising space in DASH and Commuter Express buses.

PRESENTED BY:

  
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