

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paloma Bustos

**Date Submitted:** 09/28/2026 09:51 AM

**Council File No:** 26-0567

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Loyola Law School supports the City's review of procurement practices to ensure public funds do not contribute to forced labor, child labor, and other forms of exploitation.



September 28, 2026

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Reference: Motion to Review the City's Current Procurement Policies and Practices  
Council File 26-0567**

**Dear Esteemed Members of the Los Angeles City Council**

The Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Loyola Law School supports the City's review of procurement practices to ensure public funds do not contribute to forced labor, child labor, and other forms of exploitation.

In August 2025, the Council adopted Council File 25-0735, addressing the risks of human trafficking after natural disasters. The motion called on the City to strengthen its procurement policies to better protect workers from trafficking. It also directs City departments to review Los Angeles County's work and report back with recommendations for implementing those practices in the City.

We are concerned that this report is still outstanding. The County has already completed significant work that can provide a model for the City.

In June 2025, the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department issued its *Report Back on Preventing Human Trafficking in the Wake of Natural Disasters*. The County reviewed its contracting policies, federal anti-trafficking standards, and approaches used by other jurisdictions. It also recommended creating a County policy that clearly prohibits contractors from engaging in human trafficking.

The County report also reviewed the City of Los Angeles' existing procurement policies. It discussed the City's Sweat-Free Procurement Ordinance and previous recommendations to strengthen protections against forced labor and child labor.

The County's work also shows why procurement protections should go beyond worker education alone. Strong policies should include clear contractor requirements, oversight, and accountability to help prevent forced labor and other forms of exploitation.

Council File 26-0567 provides another opportunity to move this work forward. We urge the City to use this review to strengthen protections against human trafficking and forced labor in vehicle procurement and supply chains.

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We also urge the City to complete the report requested under Council File 25-0735 and use Los Angeles County's work as a model for stronger City procurement policies.

Sincerely,

*Paloma Bustos*

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Paloma Bustos, MSW

Policy Associate

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### References

1. **Los Angeles City Council, Council File 25-0735**, Motion regarding human trafficking risks following natural disasters, adopted August 2025.  
[https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2025/25-0735\\_misc\\_06-27-25.pdf](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2025/25-0735_misc_06-27-25.pdf)
2. **Los Angeles County Internal Services Department, Report Back on Preventing Human Trafficking in the Wake of Natural Disasters**, June 2025.  
[https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1185461\\_ISD-ReportBackonPreventingHumanTraffickingintheWakeofNaturalDisasters-June2025.pdf](https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/bc/1185461_ISD-ReportBackonPreventingHumanTraffickingintheWakeofNaturalDisasters-June2025.pdf)
3. **Los Angeles City Council, Council File 26-0567**, Motion regarding review of City vehicle procurement policies and labor standards, April 17, 2026.

