



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA

CITY OF LONG BEACH

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Kevin de León
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 54 (de León) – The California Values Act

Dear Senate Pro Tempore de León:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to express the City's full support of SB 54 (de León). On February 7, 2017, the Long Beach City Council approved a motion to support State legislation that protects immigrants who positively contribute to our local community and to California's economy, and requested amendments to ensure:

- Local law enforcement agencies have clear discretion to partner with federal law enforcement agencies to combat serious and violent crimes; and
- Participate in multi-agency federal task-force operations with the intent to combat international and domestic terrorism, as well as fight organized crime such as human trafficking and drug trafficking.

Amendments made on March 29, 2017, meet these requests.

As a vibrant, multi-cultural city, Long Beach thrives on the ingenuity, entrepreneurship, and diversity of our immigrant communities and American-born residents. Over 40 percent of the Long Beach population identifies as Latino, and 12 percent identify as Asian. It is also believed that Long Beach has the largest Cambodian population outside of Southeast Asia. Many Cambodian families that in Long Beach came to the United States as immigrants and refugees from 1975 to 1979. The United States Census Bureau reports that 1 in 4 people living in Long Beach identify as foreign-born.

The City considers our diversity to be part of our economic strength. Since 2012, business in downtown Long Beach has doubled. In March 2016, the unemployment rate in Long Beach reached a nine-year low. Additionally, in 2016, revenue per available Long Beach Hotel room increased 8.8 percent over 2015 levels, reflecting an increase in tourism and convention attendance. Clearly, Long Beach is a safe city, and our growing economy is a reflection of that fact.

Immigration is a federal policy issue between the United States government and other countries. It is reasonable that SB 54 limits State and local law enforcement agencies from using money, facilities, property, and equipment to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect or arrest individuals solely for

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immigration enforcement purposes. Long Beach, along with other major cities and the State of California, believe that enforcing immigration at the local level undermines trust and cooperation with immigrant communities, which are essential elements of community-oriented policing.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach is proud to join over 50 organizations from across California in support of SB 54 (de León). Thank you for introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Garcia', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District