

Date: January 7, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Vice Mayor Roberto Uranga, 7th District  
Councilwoman Mary Zendejas, 1st District  
Councilmember Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, 9th District

Subject: Strengthening the Long Beach Values Act

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to strengthen the Long Beach's Values Act and reaffirm the City's commitment to protecting its local diverse immigrant communities by requesting that each separate appointing authority—including the Harbor Department, Utilities Department, City Clerk, Police Oversight, and the elected offices of the City Prosecutor, City Auditor, City Attorney, and Legislative Department—formally commit to the Long Beach Values Act via a letter to the City Council;

Recommendation to request the City Attorney to draft language to integrate the City's Data Privacy Guidelines into standard contractual language, and to implement formal Data Transfer and Use Agreements for all agreements involving data transfers;

Recommendation to support the City Manager's authorization of an additional \$200,000 for removal defense support via the Long Beach Justice Fund as part of their Fiscal Year 2024 Year End recommendations to the Mayor and City Council;

Recommendation to request the City Manager's office to develop and amplify informational materials, resources, and community partnerships to help educate community members on their rights and protections; and,

Recommendation to request the City Manager's office and the City Attorney to review and determine the feasibility of additional community requests and report back to City Council.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### ***Statement of Values***

The City of Long Beach has a long-standing commitment to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and diverse community that celebrates the contributions of all its residents. The City prioritizes equity in policy making and service delivery in order to ensure that all residents, regardless of their background, are treated with dignity and respect. This commitment underpins this current effort to strengthen the protections provided by the Long Beach Values Act.

## ***Background***

On January 25th, 2017 the first Trump administration issued [Executive Order \(EO\) 13768](#), threatening to withhold federal funds from cities that did not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement measures. In response, the California State Senate passed SB 54 (“the California Values Act”), which prevents state and local law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration agencies, except in cases involving violent crime.

On February 7, 2017, the City of Long Beach became the first of [many cities](#) in California to support SB 54. On September 19, 2017, Long Beach City Council [directed City Staff](#) to develop its own local policy building on SB 54, called the Long Beach Values Act. The Long Beach Values Act was supported by a wide range of local immigrant rights organizations and community leaders, including LA County [Supervisor Janice Hahn](#) and then United States [Congressman Alan Lowenthal](#).

After a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process and an analysis of policy best practices from other California jurisdictions, City Staff presented a recommended policy that was adopted by the Long Beach City Council as the [Long Beach Values Act of 2018](#). This policy direction included the implementation of [Administrative Regulation No. AR8-33](#), which established rules related to the requesting, collecting, maintaining, and disclosing of sensitive information, and regulations prohibiting assistance with federal immigration enforcement.

While SB 54 and the Long Beach Values Act were challenged by the Trump administration, the Supreme Court [declined to hear the appeal](#) and the policy remains in effect today, although the Biden Administration [rescinded EO 13768 in 2021](#). Despite claims by anti-immigrant groups, [SB 54 did not result in an increase in crime](#) and [studies regularly show](#) that immigrants do not commit crimes at rates higher than natural born citizens.

With a second Trump administration taking office in January 2025, it is important to acknowledge and prepare for the impact that forthcoming policies may have on vulnerable immigrant communities including undocumented residents, lawful permanent residents, children and dependents of non-citizen individuals, [DACA](#) recipients, and [DREAMERS](#), who come from diverse Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, African, and European backgrounds. The anticipated changes in federal policy call for proactive and collaborative efforts at the local level to ensure the City of Long Beach’s policies are strengthened in order to protect the needs and rights of the vibrant immigrant communities who contribute to and call Long Beach home.

## ***Recommendations***

Based on policy recommendations presented by local immigrant service and advocacy organizations, and additional [City Staff](#) review, the following five recommendations provide tangible and immediate actions the City can take to strengthen the Long Beach Values Act in advance of the change in federal administration in January 2025:

### ***1. Broaden the applicability of the existing Long Beach Values Act to independent offices.***

The Long Beach Values Act and associated regulations currently in effect are applicable to all City departments and offices directly responsible to the City Manager. To ensure administrative uniformity and consistency across the entire City, staff should work with independent departments and elected offices to understand the practices in place to formally recognize the City's commitment to the Long Beach Values Act.

City Council should reaffirm its support for the Long Beach Values Act and send a direct request to each separate appointing authority asking them to formally commit to the Long Beach Values Act via a signed letter indicating their agreement to the Long Beach Values Act. This would include Port of Long Beach, Utilities, City Clerk, City Prosecutor, City Auditor, City Attorney, Police Oversight, and the Legislative Department.

### ***2. Extend the scope of the City's data privacy standards to relevant City contracts and vendor agreements to ensure City data is not inadvertently shared with federal immigration enforcement officials.***

The City can continue to reinforce standards for data protection and control by expanding the applicability of the City's Data Privacy Guidelines to its contractual language with all external vendors.

Staff should integrate the City's Data Privacy Guidelines into standard contractual language to communicate the City's commitment to equity, privacy, and data protection. Staff should also implement formal Data Transfer and Use Agreements as an addendum to agreements involving data transfers, which would clearly define data flow, provide detailed descriptions, and outline disposition requirements.

Consistency and transparency in handling data across all agreements will improve overall data governance practices and provide an additional safeguard to reinforce the data privacy interests of Long Beach's immigrant communities and all residents alike.

### ***3. Expand Local Immigration Defense Services***

Since 2018, the Long Beach Justice Fund has provided free legal representation to low-income individuals residing or working in Long Beach and facing removal proceedings at the Los Angeles Immigration Courts, Van Nuys Immigration Court, Adelanto Detention Facility,

and the Santa Ana Immigration Court. In 2024 the Justice Fund, now managed by the City's Office of Equity, expanded the services provided to include connections to comprehensive support services and affirmative legal representation, which assists with applications for U Visas, T Visas, VAWA, and other forms of immigration relief.

To increase the organizational capacity of these services and ensure community members in Long Beach can access legal representation and due process, City staff should prioritize and allocate an additional \$200,000 for removal defense support as part of its Fiscal Year 2024 Year End recommendations to the Mayor and City Council, should surplus funds be available, and bring additional contracts to the City Council as appropriate to fund providers of these services.

*4. Develop and amplify comprehensive educational materials, resources, and community partnerships that help affirm the rights and protections of immigrant community members.*

Under the leadership of the Office of Equity, City Staff should identify and gather a comprehensive range of emergency and educational materials designed to support immigrant residents. These materials should include multilingual guides on navigating local services, such as healthcare, housing, and legal resources, and provide a list of local immigrant-serving organizations and resources.

The Office of Equity should produce educational resources on immigrant rights and protections against discrimination. Any materials produced should be culturally responsive, available in multiple formats, including digitally on the City of Long Beach website, and shared with trusted community organizations to ensure broad public accessibility.

Additionally, City Staff should consider and pursue the following strategies and partnership opportunities to help educate community members about their rights and legal protections:

- Include language in the Long Beach Values Act that ensures access to City Facilities, such as Community Centers, Health Facilities, Libraries, Parks and Shelters.
- Inform individuals about the City's Privacy Policies and Procedures regarding the collection, retention, and disposal of personally identifiable information. This includes providing clear information on individuals' rights to access or request the deletion of their personal information. Notifications should be delivered in a concise, multilingual one-page document at the point where personal information is collected, ensuring accessibility and transparency.
- Strengthen collaborative efforts with local public institutions like LBUSD, LBCC, and CSULB by implementing joint training programs, data-sharing agreements, and youth engagement initiatives that prioritize equity. Partnerships can also streamline services for immigrant families and underserved students.
- Invest in local mutual aid networks and rapid response efforts that provide resources and logistical support to families who may be at risk of separation due to immigration enforcement actions.
- Train community-facing staff on the policies and practices of how to respond to requests for physical access to City facilities for immigration enforcement purposes,

including the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, description of warrants, subpoenas, and court orders used for immigration enforcement.

*5. Review and determine feasibility of additional community requests.*

Community organizations provided several additional requests. City Staff should continue to review the feasibility of the following requests and report back to the City Council in a timely fashion.

- Explore potential policy enforcement through a private right of action.
- Explore removal of SB 54 exclusions and expanding protections.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact review was conducted due to the urgency of this item.

**SUGGESTED ACTION**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberto Uranga, Vice Mayor, Seventh District



Mary Zendejas, Councilmember, First District



Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, Councilmember, Ninth District