

LWVLA Observer Report Los Angeles City Council
Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights and Equity Committee
Special Meeting April 12, 2018

Committee members present: Gil Cedillo - Chair, Herb Wesson, Jr., Curren Price Jr. - Dist. 9,
Nury Martinez - Dist. 6, David Ryu

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report by LAPD & City Attorney on city's enforcement efforts associated with the implementation of CA Civil Code Sec. 52.6 (SB 1193) related to human trafficking:

First responders (LAPD, LAFD, teachers, DPSS & others) are being trained in a protocol for recognizing & dealing with victims. A trafficking survivor participates in each training session. A PSA, including the words of a survivor, will come out soon. A Time Magazine photojournalist is doing something too. Main focus, if I understood correctly, is on the Valley & Hollywood divisions - literature, housing, job training & other support. Social media is being used to provide info to victims. Enforcement involves partnering with FBI & LAPD vice unit - 24 hour response includes a survivor & social service workers. There are 6-8 investigators in each area of the city. Most victims are Latina domestic workers & children used for sex.

Councilwoman Nury Martinez asked for info regarding where the "johns" are coming from, success rate, and numbers re recidivism and exploited populations. They will be provided at a later time. Martinez also requested the LAPD for a report on what is needed to create an LAPD task force for each police district.

2. City Attorney report and Ordinance relative to adding Article 5.4 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to establish legal protections against the disclosure of tenants' information or citizenship status to third parties.

Following the City Attorney's report on the provisions of the proposed ordinance, which includes a \$1,000 fine and/or imprisonment for up to 6 months, a motion was made & seconded to adopt the ordinance. It was suggested that consideration be given to increasing the penalties.

3. LAPD report regarding the procedures and protocols to comply with SB54 while protecting the public through community partnerships and adhering to the law regarding immigration enforcement. Several members of the public (6-8), including a representative of the LA (CA) Association of Immigration Lawyers, spoke in favor of adopting a city ordinance to comply with SB54 and in favor of strengthening SB54.

Then Arif Alarkahn reported on LAPD progress since the CA Values Act (SB54?), which included:

- commitment to community policing
- policies & procedures regarding encounters between the LAPD and immigrants, including not inquiring about immigration status or country of origin (on officers' "field interview cards" the former question regarding "place of birth" has been removed), except if the person is arrested & booked. However, if a person re-enters the U.S. after an expulsion for a crime the LAPD does transfer the person to ICE, as is the case if the person has an outstanding federal arrest warrant. Upon arrest by LAPD, immigration status is not asked for, only place of birth. However, finger prints are sent to ICE. Federal requests for the LAPD to detain a prisoner so ICE can pick them up are not honored as

required by SB54. Federal requests to be allowed to interview prisoners in LA jails are refused. Alarkahn said the LAPD has never received such a request (eyebrows were raised by some committee members). Alarkahn pointed out that it has been the decades-long practice of the LAPD not to engage with federal civil immigration enforcement.

A police officer reported on ongoing efforts by the LAPD to build trust with immigrant communities:

- 90 public meetings have been held & social media used to clarify LAPD positions and correct misinformation, e.g. that LAPD is participating in ICE raids.
- partnerships are being built with immigrant communities.

In response to a question from Nury Martinez, Alarkahn clarified that Special Order 40 doesn't exist anymore. Functionally, it's the LAPD's Policies & Procedures which control. All references to "illegal aliens" have been removed. There were also remarks about a suit against the Fed. Dept. of Justice.

Peter Shay made comments as a citizen. He acknowledged the progress made by the LAPD, but noted the lack of laws that control ICE "at the local level", and that the LAPD still releases some citation information to ICE which the CA Public Records Act doesn't require. He stated that Santa Ana has a better policy regarding non-cooperation with ICE than LA. Nury Martinez asked for Shay's "next step recommendations". He said he would submit 4 proposals in writing and would meet in a week with the committee to review them.

Submitted by Marianne Dozier