

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

**BOYLE HEIGHTS
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Edward Padilla
PRESIDENT

Martha Cruz Pelayo
VICE PRESIDENT

Margarita Amador
SECRETARY

Vera del Pozo
TREASURER

Aurelia Salgado
OUTREACH OFFICER

Rafael C. Chagoya
PLANNING AND LAND USE
OFFICER



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**

City Hall, 200 North Spring Street,
Ste. 2005
Los Angeles, California 90012

TELEPHONE: (213) 978-1551
TOLL-FREE: 3-1-1
FAX: (213) 978-1751

E-MAIL:
NCSUPPORT@LACITY.ORG

GRAYCE LIU
GENERAL MANAGER

www.EmpowerLA.org

Board Resolution

May 24, 2013

To: Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar, CD 14
cc: Los Angeles City Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes, Paul Krekorian, Dennis P. Zine, Tom Labonge, Paul Koretz, Richard Alarcon, Eric Garcetti, Bernard C. Parks, Jan Perry, Herb J. Wesson, Bill Rosendahl, Mitchell Englander, Joe Buscaino

RE: California Driver's License Resolution

Whereas there are over 1, 000,000 taxpayers in the State of California who are not legally allowed to obtain drivers licenses because of their immigration status; and

Whereas the inability of these drivers to obtain a Driver's License has led to a dramatic increase in racial profiling and the systematic criminalization of thousands of California drivers; and

Whereas this has resulted in severe and unfair consequences, including exorbitant fines, loss of property, and even deportation under the Secure Communities program; and

Whereas not allowing over a million people to obtain drivers' licenses has created a serious safety concern for all residents of the State of California; and

Whereas the State of California generates over \$40 million per year from vehicle impounds of undocumented [im] migrants – the most economically disenfranchised workers in the State of California; and

Whereas the percentage of vehicles impounded increased 53 percent from 2007 to 2010; and

Whereas numerous investigations have determined that law enforcement agencies have targeted Latino and poor communities in order to maximize the number of vehicles impounded; and

Whereas the most dangerous drivers are those with licenses suspended or revoked for reckless driving or driving under the influence – not drivers who were never granted a license due their immigration status; and

Whereas despite the fact that drivers who are not licensed due to immigration status are not the most dangerous drivers, more than seven times as many vehicles were impounded for failure to obtain a license than for driving under the influence in 2009 alone; and

Whereas the states of Washington, New Mexico and Utah continue to issue Driver's Licenses to all drivers in their states who pass driving safety tests; and

Whereas the trend of Georgia, Alabama, Arizona and other states in passing anti-immigrant legislation has led to an increase in racial profiling and hate crimes not seen since the era of racial segregation against people of color; and

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Whereas California has a very rich history as a national leader in Civil Rights movements and protecting the rights of African-Americans and other ethnic minorities; and

Whereas granting Driver's Licenses would help to reduce racial profiling, hate crimes and the record number of vehicle impounds that are devastating thousands of working class families in California; and

Whereas the State of California issued Driver's Licenses to undocumented immigrants for decades until 1994; and

Whereas many elected officials such as Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villarigoza, as well as leaders from the law enforcement community like LAPD Chief Charlie Beck and Sheriff Lee Baca, including the Los Angeles Police Protective League and the Los Angeles Airport Peace Officers' Association have publicly stated that they support Driver's Licenses for undocumented immigrants; and

Whereas granting Driver's Licenses to undocumented immigrants would ensure that all drivers on the road will have studied the rules of the road, passed driving safety tests, and paid DMV fees; and

Whereas this would lead to much safer roads and highways for all people in the State of California; and

Whereas, Driver's Licenses granted to undocumented immigrants must not identify the Driver's immigration status, because such an identifying mark would make that individual a potential target for deportation;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the BHNC calls on:

Governor Jerry Brown (Democrat), Speaker of the House John Perez (Democrat) and President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (Democrat) to publicly state their support for and take action to pass a law legalizing unmarked Driver's Licenses and identification cards for everyone in the state of California who passes the driving tests; including undocumented immigrants; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the BHNC calls on all community based organizations, labor unions, churches, student groups, city councils, neighborhood councils, and all spaces to adopt this resolution and to encourage others to do the same.

On behalf of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, this resolution was passed at the May 22, 2013 General Board meeting with the following vote count:

12 yes 1 no 1 abstain



Signature of President
Print Name: Edward Padilla

5/24/13

Date



Signature of Planning and Land Use Chair
Print Name: Rafael C. Chagoya

5/24/13

Date