



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

June 26, 2025

The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán
U.S. House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragán,

On behalf of the City of Paramount, I am writing to express our deep concerns regarding the troubling tactics employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in community settings, particularly the use of masks and unmarked vehicles during immigration enforcement actions.

The Paramount City Council strongly condemns these practices, which create fear and confusion among residents and undermine public trust in law enforcement. The use of face coverings and unidentified vehicles by federal agents conducting enforcement in neighborhoods, near schools, or in proximity to public facilities erodes the sense of safety and transparency our communities deserve. These actions blur the lines between official law enforcement and potentially unlawful impersonation, putting residents at risk.

We respectfully urge you to sponsor and advance federal legislation that would prohibit ICE agents from wearing masks or utilizing unmarked vehicles during immigration enforcement operations conducted in or near community settings. These reforms are essential to ensuring accountability, increasing public safety, and reinforcing the integrity of immigration enforcement actions.

Additionally, we ask that you call upon the Department of Homeland Security and ICE to adopt clear and immediate policies that require agents to visibly identify themselves to both local law enforcement and the general public when engaged in field activities. Community members and public safety personnel must be able to easily distinguish official federal agents to prevent confusion and reduce fear.

The City of Paramount also expresses strong support for SB 805, the No Vigilantes Act, as a common-sense state measure to prevent law enforcement impersonators and protect our neighborhoods from individuals who seek to exploit community fear for personal or political purposes.

Attached is a resolution adopted by the City Council at its June 24, 2025 meeting condemning the presence and conduct of ICE in the City and reaffirming Paramount's commitment to a safe, inclusive, and welcoming community for all residents.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

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Thank you for your continued leadership in protecting the rights and safety of our communities. We appreciate your partnership and urge swift action on these critical issues. You may reach our City Manager John Moreno at 562-220-2225 or by email: jmoreno@paramountcity.gov

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peggy Lemons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peggy" being more prominent than the last name "Lemons".

Peggy Lemons
Mayor

cc: Senator Lena Gonzalez, State Senate District 33
Assemblymember Jose Solache, State Assembly District 62
Supervisor Janice Hahn, LA County 4th District

CITY OF PARAMOUNT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 25:027

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT
CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE AND CONDUCT OF U.S.
IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) IN THE CITY AND
REAFFIRMING PARAMOUNT'S COMMITMENT TO A SAFE, INCLUSIVE,
AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Paramount recognizes that the United States of America was built by immigrants, and our country and community are strongest when we embrace the diversity, culture, and contributions of all individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount is home to a diverse population, including immigrants, refugees, and individuals of all national origins, ethnicities, and immigration statuses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount affirms its support for non-criminal immigrants who are integral to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of our city; and

WHEREAS, immigrants in Paramount contribute meaningfully across all sectors, including working as essential workers, small business owners, educators, health care providers, service industry professionals, and volunteers supporting our youth, faith institutions, and civic life; and

WHEREAS, countless immigrant families in Paramount have lived in the community for decades, raising children, contributing to local schools, maintaining vibrant neighborhoods, and helping to drive the city's economy; and

WHEREAS, immigrant-owned small businesses help energize Paramount's commercial corridors, creating jobs and economic growth that benefit all residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount recognizes that the rich cultural diversity of our immigrant population enhances community life through festivals, traditions, and multilingual services that foster mutual respect and understanding; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is proud to serve a City built upon the values of inclusion, compassion, and the shared experiences of its people; and

WHEREAS, recent immigration enforcement actions and visible presence of ICE agents in the region have caused fear, uncertainty, distress, and disruption among many community members, particularly within the City's immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount deeply values every member of its immigrant community and strongly objects to enforcement actions that target individuals who are working hard to seek safety, stability, and opportunity, living peacefully and crime-free, and contributing positively to the City's well-being and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is deeply troubled that families and entire neighborhoods are being torn apart, suffering the consequences of a broken federal immigration system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council empathizes with and supports all community members who are feeling fear and uncertainty because of these enforcement activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount is united in affirming what has always been true about our community: that Paramount is a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for all regardless of immigration status and every resident of Paramount deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive without fear; and

WHEREAS, immigration enforcement presence has prompted widespread outcry, public demonstrations, and has resulted in damage to public and private property which threaten public safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount has experienced other negative impacts attributed to the increased federal immigration enforcement in the region including, but not limited to, safety concerns from the excessive presence of federal agents along the local Department of Homeland Security (DHS) facility's perimeter, causing alarm among the community, and resulting in people afraid to leave their homes, unable to carry on with their daily activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount stands for compassion, unity, and action, and the City Council affirms its commitment to continue listening to, uplifting, and standing with all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount is actively working to identify services, programs, and partnerships to help protect, inform, and assist our most vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges that the enforcement of the nation's immigration laws is a federal responsibility, and that local resources are not used to assist with immigration enforcement pursuant to the California Values Act (Gov Code. §§ 7284 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that local resources are best used to build trust between communities and public safety officials and not to facilitate immigration enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount has explored various legal options to determine whether the City could compel ICE to cease operations within City limits; and

WHEREAS, after careful legal analysis, the City concluded that federal preemption under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Article VI, Clause 2, significantly limits local authority to regulate or expel federal agencies operating within the City, and that any attempt to interfere with DHS's tenancy would likely be unlawful or unenforceable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount believes that the use of this facility by ICE is inappropriate in a residential and community-centered city like Paramount and that its continued operation in this capacity is inconsistent with the values of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount seeks to maintain its character as a welcoming city, and supports the right of all individuals to live free from intimidation, discrimination, and fear, and to access city services regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount has requested assistance from U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán and U.S. Senator Adam Schiff to obtain information and clarity from DHS regarding the current and future use of its facility located within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount is committed to protecting the rights, dignity, and safety of all residents, regardless of immigration status, and commits to upholding the California Values Act; and

WHEREAS, the City of Paramount and its law enforcement partner (LA County Sheriff's Department) do not participate in immigration enforcement activities, do not assist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with raids, and do not enforce federal immigration laws, which are outside the scope of local policing; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement cannot interfere with, and State and Local laws cannot regulate, Federal ICE agents from carrying out Federal immigration enforcement duties; and

WHEREAS, the separation between local policing and federal immigration enforcement is essential to maintaining trust between immigrant communities and public safety officials, and to ensuring that all residents feel safe in reporting crimes and seeking assistance without fear of immigration consequences; and

WHEREAS, the City Council acknowledges the pain, anger, and fear expressed by many members of the community in response to the increased ICE activity, and recognizes its responsibility to speak out against practices that undermine the well-being and cohesion of the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitations are true and correct.

SECTION 2. Therefore, the City Council hereby declares as follows:

1. The City Council strongly condemns the increased presence and enforcement activities of ICE within the City's jurisdiction, including the use of facilities in Paramount for training or operations that disproportionately target immigrant and marginalized communities.
2. The City Council calls on the owner of the property in Paramount where DHS offices are located to take action to limit the impacts of this facility on the community.
3. The City Council calls on U.S. Congresswoman Nanette Barragán and U.S. Senator Adam Schiff to take immediate action to limit the use of the DHS facility in Paramount.
4. The City Council condemns the use of masks and unidentified vehicles by ICE agents during their immigration enforcement actions in community settings.
5. The City Council calls upon DHS and ICE to immediately adopt policies that allow local law enforcement and residents to easily identify an ICE agent engaged in immigration enforcement activities.
6. The City Council urges Congresswoman Nannette Barragan to sponsor legislation that would prohibit ICE agents from wearing masks or use unmarked vehicles when engaged in immigration enforcement activities in community settings.
7. The City Council supports SB 805, the No Vigilantes Act, as a common sense measure to protect public safety and stop law enforcement impersonators, and directs City staff to take all actions necessary to express the City Council's support for this state bill.
8. The City Council requests an end to the federal government's harmful enforcement practices that separate families and destabilize communities, and to pursue humane and just immigration policies.
9. The City Council affirms Paramount's unwavering commitment to safety, inclusivity, and welcome for all residents—regardless of immigration status—and calls upon all agencies operating within city limits to respect the civil and human rights of every individual.
10. The City commits to working collaboratively to explore, fund, and implement programs and partnerships that support the health, safety, and well-being of all community members, particularly those most at risk due to federal immigration enforcement actions.

11. The City will continue to research and evaluate all available lawful actions to address the past and ongoing nuisance and safety concerns caused by the DHS facility in Paramount.
12. The City Council at its June 10, 2025, meeting unanimously approved funding to directly support immigration-related humanitarian resources to assist those in need.
13. At its June 24, 2025 meeting, the City Council will consider adopting a new Immigration Humanitarian Services program for Paramount community members in the amount of \$100,000.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paramount this 24th day of June 2025.

/s/ Peggy Lemons

Peggy Lemons, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Heidi Luce

Heidi Luce, City Clerk