



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

August 15, 2025

Suzanne P. Clark
President/CEO
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20062

California Chamber of Commerce
Luis Quinonez, President
Jennifer Barrera, President/CEO
1215 K Street, Suite 1400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Immigration Enforcement Impact on Paramount Businesses

Dear Ms. Clark and Mr. Quinonez:

On behalf of the Mayor of the City of Paramount and the Paramount Chamber of Commerce, we write to express serious concerns regarding the profound and growing impact of recent immigration enforcement actions on our local business community.

Over the past several weeks, heightened federal immigration activity in and around our City has disrupted business operations, reduced consumer activity, and instilled fear across our workforce and customer base. While we recognize the importance of upholding our nation's immigration laws, the broad and aggressive manner in which these actions have been carried out has had unintended but devastating consequences on small businesses and the broader economic stability of our city.

To better understand the scale of the impact, the City conducted a survey of our local businesses. The results are deeply alarming:

- **84%** of responding businesses have fewer than 10 employees—underscoring how vulnerable our business landscape is.
- **28%** have been operating in the City for over 20 years, demonstrating deep community roots and long-standing economic contributions.
- **81%** report a decrease in customer traffic.
- **73%** report a loss in revenue ranging from 30 to 80%, with **41%** of those experiencing losses greater than **40%**.

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

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- **72%** report significantly reduced business activity compared to three months ago.
- **27%** have experienced employees resigning or reducing work hours due to immigration-related concerns.
- **78%** emphasized the need for access to reliable information and public outreach to help restore customer confidence.

These numbers point to a broader crisis. When federal immigration enforcement activity causes widespread fear and economic instability, it undermines the health of small businesses—the backbone of cities like Paramount—and threatens local economies across the country.

We believe the time has come to urge a different approach to immigration enforcement - one that meets our nation's legal and security priorities without destabilizing local economies or placing disproportionate burdens on small businesses. We need a strategy that is smart, targeted, humane, and economically informed.

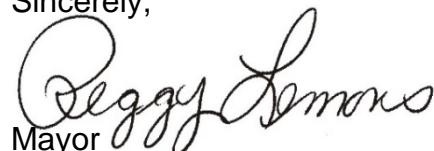
We urge you to elevate this issue on behalf of all local chambers and small businesses facing similar challenges nationwide. We ask for your support in advocating for:

- **Improved coordination** between federal agencies and local governments to reduce disruption in commercial zones.
- **Transparent, timely communication** to counter misinformation and reduce fear.
- **Policies that balance enforcement with economic and community stability.**
- **Access to financial and technical support** for businesses experiencing measurable losses due to enforcement activity.

We stand ready to collaborate on national policy conversations and share our local experience to inform better solutions. With the right approach, we can uphold our values, enforce our laws, and protect the small businesses that fuel our economy. We hope to work together toward policies that strengthen, not destabilize, the economic foundation of communities like ours.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued leadership. Please contact Paramount City Manager John Moreno at 562-220-2225 / jmoreno@paramountcity.gov or Barbara Crowson, Paramount Chamber of Commerce Executive Director at 562-634-3980 / bcrowson@paramountchamber.com

Sincerely,



Mayor
City of Paramount



President
Paramount Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán - U.S. House of Representatives
Jennings Imel, Vice President US Chamber - Western Region
Gateway Chamber Alliance (*representing the Chambers of Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Compton, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs*)