RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Republicans in Congress are moving swiftly to punish cities that decline to devote resources to enforcing federal immigration laws and they have already introduced several measures to block federal funds from municipalities; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2017, Congressman Lou Barletta (R-PA) introduced HR 83, known as the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act, to prohibit any state of local government in violations of section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 from receiving any federal funds; and

WHEREAS, while this is the third time Congressman Barletta has introduced a bill targeting sanctuary cities, HR 83 has a greater chance of passing given President Trump's vow to cut federal funding to such cities within the first 100 days in office; and

WHEREAS, HR 83 directs the Attorney General to compile and issue an annual report on compliance of states and cities; and

WHEREAS, any jurisdiction that is found to be out of compliance would be ineligible for federal financial assistance for a minimum of one year; and

WHEREAS, according to the New York Times, there are approximately 400 cities and counties that could be impacted by these punitive actions; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles receives tens of millions of dollars from the federal government to provide critical services to the residents of this city; and

WHEREAS, any cuts to federal funding could severely limit the services the city can provide, impact infrastructure and capital improvement projects, jeopardize public safety and cause a budget crisis;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby opposes HR 83, the Mobilizing Against Sanctuary Cities Act.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Gil Cedillo
MOTION

The greater Los Angeles area is home to over 3.4 million immigrants, who can trace their roots from all around the world and who practice a myriad of different religions - or no religion at all - and whose contributions to our communities form a beautiful, complex and vibrant culture in the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles and its people have overwhelmingly chosen, time and again, to embrace the diversity that strengthens our great city.

There are many examples in our national history when we have violated the values upon which our country is based, and we still suffer as a people from those grave mistakes. Eighty-seven years passed between the declaration that, "...all men are created equal..." by the Second Continental Congress until slavery finally ended in the United States. Another 101 years passed until the Civil Rights Act of 1964 finally gave power to those words for all people and not just some. The Federal government, through a campaign of forced relocation and cultural devastation, attempted to destroy the very existence of Native Americans. Irrational fears led to the Internment of Japanese-Americans after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, even here in Los Angeles. And in the summer of 1942, the SS Drottningholm carried hundreds of Jewish refugees seeking asylum from the horrors of the Holocaust, but the United States shamefully turned them away.

These past examples of actions that violated the bedrock principles of our American Constitutional democracy are among the darkest moments in American history. Like an echo from these dark chapters, the language and legislation of oppression have crept back into the mainstream political discourse in the United States. In many respects, the life, liberty and happiness of vulnerable people throughout our nation, whether through official acts or by emboldened hate groups, are under threat.

As President Barack Obama said in his farewell remarks, “Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it’s really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power. We, the people, give it meaning. With our participation, and with the choices that we make, and the alliances that we forge. Whether or not we stand up for our freedoms. Whether or not we respect and enforce the rule of law. That’s up to us. America is no fragile thing. But the gains of our long journey to freedom are not assured.”

Today our country inaugurated a new President of the United States. As a candidate, our new President repeatedly proposed creating a registry of Muslim Americans. He proposed banning Muslims from entering the United States. He repeatedly engaged in rhetoric that suggested an unfair scapegoating of Muslim Americans based solely on their faith.

Our city should take these statements and actions seriously, and we should never tolerate or accept them. We must never facilitate or cooperate with such an abrogation of our most cherished values.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the City Attorney draft an ordinance that would prohibit City employees from participating in any program to register individuals based on their religion or spiritual faith, or that would result in discrimination
on those bases.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney REPORT on their efforts to respond to hate crimes in the City of Los Angeles and ensure the safety of our minority communities, and in particular Muslim Americans.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

Seconded by: Gil Cedillo

JAN 20 2017