In 2013, Mayor Eric Garcetti re-established the Office of Immigrant Affairs in order to promote and advance the economic, cultural, social, and political well-being of immigrant communities in the City of Los Angeles. Our mission is to develop programs and initiatives that support immigrant integration and to serve immigrant Angelenos through the coordination of city services, outreach, and legislative advocacy. We encourage you to share this newsletter with your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for your support!

**FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022 IN REVIEW**

**LA County Office of Education Prenatal to Five Early Learning Virtual Conference**

On March 23, 2022, Director Nora A. Preciado and Program Coordinator Crista Hernandez presented at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Prenatal to Five Early Learning Virtual Conference. This is the second annual three-day virtual conference where parents, expectant mothers, early childhood educators, and community members, heard from experts that specialize in early education topics that enhance children’s social emotional growth and more. Director Preciado and Program Coordinator Hernandez led a presentation on immigration legal services fraud prevention and shared information about resources available...
through the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant as well as various City of LA programs and services of interest to this audience offered through FamilySource Centers, YouthSource Centers, Recreation and Parks summer programs, and more.

Naturalize 2 Million by 2022 Campaign

On February 2, 2022, Mayor Eric Garcetti joined Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), SEIU-United Service Workers West and other nonprofit leaders in the launch of the “Naturalize 2 Million by 2022” campaign tour. The national campaign encourages eligible lawful permanent residents to apply for citizenship and become civically engaged. The City of Los Angeles is a partner in the campaign as part of its membership in the Cities for Citizenship (C4C) coalition.

City of Los Angeles Language Access Community Input Process

In February 2022, the Mayor’s Office of Immigrants Affairs concluded its Language Access Community Input Process (CIP). The Language Access CIP was launched in December 2021, shortly after Mayor Garcetti issued Executive Directive (ED) 32, for the purpose of ensuring that the FY 22-23 Language Access Plan, to be released in June 2022, is responsive to community needs and feedback. Over 40 local community based organizations (CBOs) and county-level offices participated in this process by responding to a survey and/or participating in feedback sessions. Over 90 languages spoken in the City of Los Angeles were represented in the CIP. Mayor Garcetti and his Office of Immigrant Affairs thank all the organizations that took the time to respond to the survey and/or participated in the feedback sessions. The information gathered is invaluable for strengthening language access services and tools for present and future generations of English language learners in the City of Los Angeles.

IMMIGRATION POLICY NEWS

National
Interim Final Rule on Asylum Procedures
On March 29, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued an interim final rule titled, “Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers.” The rule seeks to improve and expedite the current asylum process and will be implemented in phases starting with a limited number of individuals and will expand as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) builds capacity. The rule will only apply to individuals who are placed into expedited removal proceedings on or after its effective date. The rule will not apply to unaccompanied children. The interim final rule will become effective on May 31, 2022. To view the rule, click here.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Updates
On March 2, 2022, DHS Secretary Mayorkas announced the new designation for Sudan and extension and re-designation of South Sudan, which will be current for 18 months. To view the press release, click here.

On March 3, 2022, DHS announced the designation of Ukraine for TPS for 18 months. Eligible individuals must have continuously resided in the United States since March 1, 2022. To view the press release, click here.

Additionally, on March 16, 2022, DHS designated Afghanistan for TPS for 18 months. Only individuals who were already residing in the United States as of March 15, 2022 are eligible to apply. To view the press release, click here.

Title 42- Public Health and Welfare Expulsions Update
On March 4, 2022, the D.C. Court of Appeals issued a decision in the Huisha-Huisha v. Mayorkas case, ruling that the use of U.S. Code Title 42, which allows for the removal of individuals who have recently been in a country where a communicable disease was present, is lawful. The ruling also held that the federal government must first screen migrants to ensure they are not being expelled “to places where they will be persecuted or tortured.” To view the court ruling, click here.

On March 4, 2022, a district court in the Northern District of Texas also issued a decision on the Texas v. Biden et al case, holding that unaccompanied children are not exempt from expulsion under Title 42. To view the court ruling, click here. As a result of the Texas court ruling, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) terminated Title 42 with respect to unaccompanied children. To view the CDC announcement, click here. Previously, on November 18, 2020, the D.C District Court issued an injunction in the P.J.E.S. v. Pekoske, holding that unaccompanied children were being improperly expelled under Title 42.

Proposed Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility Rule
On February 24, 2022, DHS issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would “regulate how DHS applies the public charge ground of inadmissibility.” The proposed rule
would apply to noncitizens requesting admission to the United States or applying for lawful permanent residence from within the United States. The public comment period for this proposed rule closes on April 25, 2022. To view the proposed rule, click here.

**Updates on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petitions**
On February 10, 2022, USCIS updated its policy guidance on eligibility, filing, and adjudication requirements for VAWA self-petitions, aligning with recent changes in case law. This guidance changes the interpretation of the requirement for shared residence by no longer requiring self-petitioners to currently reside or have resided in the past with the abuser during the qualifying spousal or parent-child relationship. Instead, USCIS has updated its interpretation of the statute to require self-petitioners to demonstrate that they currently reside or have resided with the abuser at any time in the past when filing the self-petition. The guidance also adopts the decisions in *Da Silva v. Attorney General*, which held that when evaluating the good moral character requirement, an act or conviction is “connected to” the battery or extreme cruelty when it has “a causal or logical relationship,” and *Argujo v. USCIS*, which allows stepchildren and stepparents to continue to be eligible for VAWA self-petitions if the parent and stepparent divorced. To view the complete policy guidance updates, click here.

**USCIS Announces New Agency Mission Statement**
On February 9, 2022, USCIS Director Ur M. Jaddous announced the agency’s new mission statement, which reflects the priorities of the Biden Administration, Director Jaddou’s vision for an inclusive and accessible agency, and feedback received from USCIS employees. USCIS’s new mission statement reads, “USCIS upholds America’s promise as a nation of welcome and possibility with fairness, integrity, and respect for all we serve.” To view the press release, click here.

**Trump Era Rules on Asylum Seekers’ Work Authorization Vacated**
On February 7, 2022, the district court for the District of Columbia ruled that two previous rules issued in August 2020 by the Trump Administration, which restricted and/or delayed access to a work permit for asylum seekers, were invalid. The court concluded that the rules were issued when Chad Wolf was unlawfully serving as Acting DHS Secretary. To view the court ruling, click here.

**State**

**SB 972: “California Retail Food Code” Introduced**
On February 10, 2022, Senator Lena A. Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) introduced Senate Bill (SB) 972, “California Retail Food Code”, with the goal of supporting California’s sidewalk vendors. The bill aims to modernize the California Retail Food Code, reducing barriers to accessing food permits, protecting public health, and creating a more equitable economy for these micro-businesses. This bill builds on SB 946 (2018), which decriminalized sidewalk vending statewide and created an avenue for cities to adopt local sidewalk vending licensing systems. To view SB 972, click here.
The City of Los Angeles is one of many cities that have created and implemented a new sidewalk vending licensing system, while at the same time, identifying continued hurdles to securing food permits that are rooted in state law. To learn more about the City of Los Angeles Sidewalk and Park Vendor Permit Program, click [here](#).

**IN THE NEWS**

*National*

**A Wave of Ukrainians and Russians at the U.S. Mexico Border Puts Pressure on Biden’s Immigration Restrictions**

*Time* (March 15, 2022)

“In FY22 so far, the number of Ukrainians and Russians encountered at the border has already surpassed the previous two years, with the most significant uptick happening in the last six months, as Russia’s threats against Ukraine increased.”

**U.S. Continues to Exempt Unaccompanied Migrant Children from Border Expulsion Policy**

*Reuters* (March 14, 2022)

“The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden said unaccompanied migrant children will continue to not be expelled from the United States under a border policy put in place by former President Donald Trump, in a bid to counter a court challenge to the current practice.”

**6 Months After Arriving in U.S., Afghan Evacuees Still Worry About the Families they Left Behind**

*PBS NewsHour* (March 4, 2022)

“About six months after that evacuation, about 84,600 Afghan nationals have arrived in the United States. Of those, more than 76,000 are Afghan nationals, and the remainder are U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. While those who have resettled gained physical security in a new country, many like Latifa face not only settling into a new life but also the added stress of loved ones stuck overseas.”

*Regional*

**California is Expanding Medi-Cal, but Hundreds of Thousands of Immigrants Will Still Be Left Behind**

*CalMatters* (February 28, 2022)

“But the expansion would still leave several hundred thousand undocumented immigrants like Marroquin uninsured. They are unable to qualify because they have jobs where they earn above
Medi-Cal’s annual income thresholds for most adults: $17,609 for single people, $23,792 for a couple and $36,156 for a family of four.”

**Los Angeles Rally Kicks Off Effort to Naturalize 2 Million U.S. Citizens this Year**  
*Al Día* (February 23, 2022)

“On Tuesday, Feb. 22, the mayors of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California joined representatives from local and national groups at LA’s City Hall to kick off “Naturalize 2 million by 2022,” the nationwide effort to increase the ranks of U.S. citizens.”

**EVENTS**

**Bystander Intervention Trainings**  
Join virtual bystander intervention trainings co-sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice- LA and Hollaback!, to learn how you can intervene effectively as a bystander in response to the increase in anti-Asian-American harassment. Trainings are available in multiple languages including Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and more. For more information and to register for an upcoming webinar, click here.

**LA Civil Rights “Law Day” Virtual Conference**  
Are you a student or know any youth interested in a legal career? Join the LA City Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department (LA Civil Rights) for “Law Day,” a virtual conference for students and youth interested in a legal career. This event is an initiative of LA Civil Rights’ Equity and Empowerment Division to support the upward mobility of students and to celebrate Diversity Month (April). This event aims to make a legal education and career more accessible to the diverse population of students in Los Angeles. For more information and to register, click here.

**GENERAL RESOURCES**

**Updated** Immigration Legal Services Fraud Prevention Flyers  
The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Immigration Legal Services Fraud Prevention Campaign published outreach flyers in three new languages: Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Korean, in order to reach Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. The flyer is now available in 9 languages.

As a reminder, the Campaign consists of various outreach materials including a flyer, community presentations, the Step Forward LA “Immigration Legal Services Fraud” webpage, and a PSA video featuring Mayor Garcetti and LAPD Chief Michel Moore. Please continue to share these materials!

**Free Tax Prep LA**  
Need help filing your taxes? The Free Tax Prep LA program is being offered at FamilySource Centers and other locations across the city. This program provides experts and volunteers that
offer free tax help to individuals and households who make less than $57,000 a year and qualify for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Drop-off services require appointments. Assistance is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Persian, Armenian, and Korean. For a list of locations and hours, visit FreeTaxPrepLA.org.

LA Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs COVID-19 Information and Resources for Immigrant and Refugee Angelenos
The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs has compiled a comprehensive COVID-19 information and resources document for immigrant and refugee Angelenos. This document provides information about resources and programs related to public health, health care, relief funds, legal services, and more. The resources listed are available to all, regardless of immigration status, unless specified otherwise. Please note that this document is updated on a monthly basis. To view the document, click here.

To stay up to date on the latest City of LA COVID-19 information and resources, visit coronavirus.LaCity.org. The City of LA’s coronavirus website also has a “City of LA Resource Guide for Immigrants during COVID-19 crisis,” an abbreviated version of the Google document above. To view the abbreviated version, click here.

Community Resource Guide for Immigrant Angelenos
The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs offers a comprehensive resource guide that provides immigrant Angelenos with important information about resources available to them, regardless of their immigration status. The revised guide has the most updated information on access to healthcare, business and licensing, a list of housing and tenant resources, and more. The updated guide is available in English and Spanish. The guides in Korean and Chinese are in the process of being updated but can still be accessed electronically.

Los Angeles Public Library: New Americans Centers
New Americans Centers offer free, virtual immigration services, including assistance with naturalization, Lawful Permanent Resident card renewals, fee waiver applications, DACA renewals, TPS, questions about adjustment of status, and more. To schedule a virtual appointment, click here.

MyLA311
The MyLA311 program allows Angelenos to easily access LA City services and information. Within the greater Los Angeles area, residents can dial 3-1-1 to contact non-emergency City services from their landline and cellular phones. The information is available in 150+ languages and is accessible to the hearing and speech impaired. More information may be found here.

To sign up for our bi-monthly newsletter, click here.