

From: [Michele Frey](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: City council agenda items for 9/9/2025
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 11:42:21 AM

As a long time resident of Costa Mesa we would like the Council to know that we wholeheartedly support all members of our community.

We support the donation of the \$100,000 to the local non profits and the creation of a legal defense fund to assist residents in connection with the federal immigration enforcement.

Michele and Peter Frey

Sent from my iPhone

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September 9, 2025

Costa Mesa City Council
77 Fair Drive,
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Re: Rental registry, support for residents impacted by immigration enforcement

To the Costa Mesa City Council:

This letter concerns items #1 and #2 of new business to be considered during the September 9, 2025 Costa Mesa City Council meeting.

First, we urge the Costa Mesa City Council to provide City staff with direction to establish a rental registry and to collect local eviction data. Such data is important to track to better understand trends in not just evictions, but also the cost of rent, rate of reported housing code violations, and other issues Costa Mesa renters face. Moreover, any collected data (e.g. average rent amounts) should be released in aggregate, summary forms to the public so that community members and organizations can also assess current conditions for local tenants. Eviction data has long been a challenge for community organizations to track since tracking such data usually requires collecting data from court filings, so having municipal-level data collection and publication would help fill in this critical gap.

Second, we are heartened to see the Costa Mesa City Council discuss the potential of funding legal support for local communities impacted by immigration enforcement, and we hope the Council moves forward with doing so. We also urge the Council to vote for the City to participate in *Perdomo v. Noem*, if not by way of intervention, then at least by way of an amicus brief.

Increased access to qualified legal representation reduces family separation and saves families money. Among residents of the Central Coast county subdivision (which covers Costa Mesa and Newport Beach) whose immigration court cases were filed in the last 90 days, half of them lack legal representation.¹ Ensuring that immigrants and refugees have access to qualified legal representation reduces risk of suffering from predatory immigration scams and decreases likelihood of long-term detention and deportation.

We also stress the importance of funding not just legal representation proper, but also community outreach and education. While legal representation is critical to preserving lives, models of immigration support that are solely attorney-centric can be limited in the extent to which they can ensure community members are educated about their rights and available resources due to the limited scope of legal cases themselves. There are also unfortunately not enough immigration attorneys to meet demand even in a hypothetical scenario in which there

¹ *Pending Court Cases by Immigrant's Address* (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, 2025), <https://tracreports.org/phptools/immigration/addressrep/>.

are unlimited funds for legal services, ultimately leaving many community members isolated as they navigate the immigration legal system.²

Taking a more holistic approach to immigration support strengthens overall community resilience. When residents are knowledgeable about immigration laws and processes, they are empowered to make informed decisions, advocate for themselves, more effectively engage in mutual support and collective action, and maintain self-sufficiency.³ This is particularly important for communities facing unique challenges to accessing sufficient legal representation (e.g. Southeast Asian refugees, who are disproportionately targeted for removal) due to distinctive conditions surrounding their cases, as well as gaps in resources and outreach geared specifically towards some communities.

We urge the City Council to take action to ensure residents have the legal representation, support services, and information needed to navigate the immigration legal system, especially during these times of emergency. The Council must demonstrate leadership in advocating for the rights of its immigrant and refugee residents and, in turn, the rights of all residents across Costa Mesa.

Sincerely,

Mai Nguyen Do
Research & Policy Manager
Harbor Institute for Immigrant & Economic Justice

² Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. Too Few Immigration Attorneys: Average Representation Rates Fall from 65% To 30%. Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University, 2024.
<https://trac.syr.edu/whatsnew/email.240124.html>.

³ Such a holistic approach has been taken with the Orange County Immigrant & Refugee Liberty Fund. The Harbor Institute worked for several years to establish the Liberty Fund, a \$1.5 million public-private partnership between Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, the Weingart Foundation, and various partners within the Orange County philanthropic community. The Liberty Fund was created and structured with the recognition of the necessity of funding a combination of legal services, community education, and outreach.

From: [Roberto Herrera](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#); [STEPHENS, JOHN](#); [CHAVEZ, MANUEL](#); [MARR, ANDREA](#); [REYNOLDS, ARLIS](#); [GAMEROS, LOREN](#)
Subject: Letter to City Council
Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 12:36:29 PM
Attachments: [Letter to City Council 9_9.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Following a major US Supreme Court ruling that encourages racial profiling and threatens due process rights, the City of Costa Mesa must take action to protect its constituents against warrantless immigration arrests and unlawful evictions

Costa Mesa City officials are faced with the harrowing reality and risks that many Costa Mesa and Orange County immigrant families are facing by the federal government. Constitutional protections, like [due process](#) and equal protection under the law, are being shredded by the current administration and the [highest court](#).

We call on the Mayor and Costa Mesa City Council to partner with non-profit legal service providers to **provide removal defense legal services for Costa Mesa constituents** impacted by the callous immigration raids running rampant across the county. We also call on the Mayor and City Council to **create a rental registry to comprehensively track all evictions** impacting tenants.

Resilience Orange County, Costa Mesa Unidos (CMU), and CHAMOY (Changing Hearts & Minds of Youth) are grounding ourselves around, “**Un Derecho A Permanecer**,” or a “Right To Remain” in our homes, our schools, and neighborhoods. Families are facing increased rents and threats of eviction, immigrant communities are living through the constant and looming presence of militarized agents terrorizing our neighborhoods, and our people are more frequently met with tear gas rather than compassion. At this moment, the right to remain is under attack, and the time is now for Costa Mesa to act. Thank you.

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Best,

Roberto Carlos Herrera
Pronouns (They/Them/Theirs)
Leadership Development Director
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RESILIENCE ORANGE COUNTY
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     ResilienceOC

September 9th, 2025

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Roberto Herrera
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