

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

**ON INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION
THROUGH CITIZENSHIP AWARENESS, EDUCATION, OUTREACH,
AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION
IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

BETWEEN

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

AND

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) is entered into by and between the Office of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles (Office of the Mayor) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) (hereinafter, "Parties") to promote immigrant integration through citizenship awareness, education, outreach, and civic participation.

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a nation of immigrants;

WHEREAS, nearly four million people live in the City of Los Angeles, thirty-nine percent of whom are immigrants who have come from more than 100 countries;

WHEREAS, approximately 2.4 million Californians are currently eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship and since 2001, more than 75,000 permanent residents have become U.S. citizens each year in the Los Angeles area, representing more than 150 countries of origin;

WHEREAS, the Parties are committed to the ideals of a robust and inclusive democracy and support the principle that America gains when immigrants understand the naturalization process, are aware of citizenship rights and responsibilities, learn English, and are afforded expanded opportunities for civic participation;

WHEREAS, immigrant integration is a dynamic two-way process that requires not only immigrants becoming vested members of our communities, but also requires communities to welcome and provide tools that help new immigrants succeed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED THAT:

- I. The Parties recognize that there is a need in the City of Los Angeles to continue to provide accurate and frequent information about citizenship and the importance of making informed decisions concerning the immigration and naturalization process, promote education on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and highlight the importance of becoming fully vested, participating members of the community. Therefore, the Parties will work together to distribute educational literature as well as citizenship awareness materials to promote and highlight the benefits and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship to residents of the City of Los Angeles;
- II. The Parties recognize that the delivery of accurate and current information regarding the naturalization process is a critical element of successfully promoting citizenship awareness to the eligible population. Therefore, in addition to distributing materials, the Parties will work together to co-sponsor a series of naturalization information sessions, at least twice a year. These information sessions shall be based on USCIS information resources. As necessary and feasible, the Office of the Mayor will make available municipal facilities for these information sessions;
- III. The Office of the Mayor, through its numerous public contact offices, libraries, recreation centers and other facilities, regularly comes into contact with residents who are eligible or will soon become eligible to apply for naturalization. Therefore, the Office of the Mayor agrees to provide information from USCIS on the naturalization process, or guide residents on how to obtain such information, which may include USCIS hard copy education and information resources, provided at the discretion of USCIS, at the City's public points of contact. The Parties recognize that public libraries are especially important places for immigrants to obtain information on the naturalization process. Therefore, USCIS will provide relevant training on citizenship and the naturalization process to public librarians to help them provide accurate information and resources to immigrant patrons;
- IV. Recognizing the importance and effectiveness of the Internet for disseminating information, USCIS will work with the Office of the Mayor to develop a citizenship and naturalization section of the City of Los Angeles' website that directs users to USCIS web-based resources;
- V. The Parties recognize that community involvement is a critical element of successful immigrant integration. Therefore, the City of Los Angeles will seek new opportunities to promote a community-wide approach to immigrant integration, incorporating the participation of key sectors of the community. This outreach will continue to include dedicated air time towards this mission on its local public access station in order to reach the broader community and steer residents towards the USCIS website whenever possible. USCIS will provide technical assistance and guidance as requested to the extent that resources permit;

- VI. The Parties recognize that the community of immigrants in the City of Los Angeles who are eligible to apply for naturalization now or in the near future is broad and diverse, and no single outreach effort will reach all of these individuals. Therefore, the Office of the Mayor will work with USCIS to identify and implement additional measures to increase awareness of citizenship rights, responsibilities, and the naturalization process among eligible residents in the City of Los Angeles;
- VII. The Parties recognize that the success of these efforts can be measured in both tangible and intangible ways, including tracking the number of attendees at naturalization information sessions and other public events, and the number of educational publications disseminated. Therefore, USCIS will continue to track progress and promote achievements.

This LOA is intended to reflect the intentions of the Parties to work in partnership and to put forward their best efforts to cooperate in the respects described. The parties will convene to plan and assess progress on a quarterly basis. This LOA does not create any enforceable legal obligation on either Party.

This LOA will remain in effect until April 30, 2013 or until terminated by mutual agreement or by either Party upon thirty (30) days advance written notice to the other Party.

This LOA is effective upon the date of the last signature of the Parties.



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor
City of Los Angeles



ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS
Director
U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services

April 24, 2012

Date

April 15, 2012

Date