



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
DISTRICT LODGE 947

Dear Honorable Mayor and Long Beach City Councilmembers,

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union District Lodge 947 (IAMAW DL 947) supports the City of Long Beach partnering with the Vera Institute of Justice. This organization has a proven national record administering multiple justice funds to fight unjust deportations and family separations through the SAFE CITIES NETWORK PROJECT that protects our constitutional right to due process and provides legal services to immigrants across 12 cities and counties from eight states.

The national network that we would become a part of includes cities like Oakland, Sacramento, Santa Ana, Denver, Austin, San Antonio, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago and Columbus. Our community has spoken; this project not only protects public safety and constitutional rights—but is integral to nurturing the very communities, thriving and diverse, that Long Beach prides itself for being. Vera has proven experience providing legal services that keep immigrant families together and safe.

Vera will also grant an additional \$100,000 in recognition of your vote to allocate \$250,000 making our investment universal, helping everyone regardless of background. Further, as the fiscal sponsor, Vera will provide program management, technical assistance and training for legal services providers, and research focusing on evaluation and coordination. Vera is a grassroots organization boasting connections with immigrant rights organizations working in Long Beach Neighborhoods who ensure all community stakeholders are at the table for the creation of the desired legal services.

We call on the Long Beach Mayor and City Council to support the Vera Institute of Justice partnership that has a history of successful legal defense programs for human and civil rights and reject ineffective and punitive measures against immigrants. This is the right vote at the right time and solidifies Long Beach as a leader in the Sanctuary Movement.

Sincerely,

Sal Vasquez, President/Directing Business Representative
IAMAW District Lodge 947