

April 21, 2015

Item No. 3
Resolution No. 40/15

The following Resolution was moved by Mr. Eramo
and seconded by Pres. Torres :

Resolution Adopting a Language Access Policy for the
City of Long Beach.

WHEREAS, the objective of adopting a Language Access Policy is to ensure that the City shall make reasonable efforts to provide meaningful access to City services and programs to persons who have limited English language proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach has an estimated population of 33,552 residents, according to the 2013 U.S. Census, of which an estimated 8.3 % are Limited English Proficient (LEP), with the majority being Spanish speaking individuals; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits agencies that receive federal funds for programs and activities from discriminating against persons on the basis of race, color or national origin; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 13166 (August 11, 2000), federally-funded agencies must take reasonable steps to ensure that people who have Limited English Proficiency have access to the recipient's programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the public safety, health, economic prosperity and general welfare of all Long Beach residents is furthered by increasing language access to City programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to ensuring that language access services are implemented in a cost effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the City currently offers a variety of language access services, for instance, on the City's official website the language on the site can be instantly translated into Spanish or into any language, with just the click of a mouse; and

WHEREAS, the City contracts with Language Line, a phone service which provides on-the-spot translation of conversations from English to multiple languages; and

WHEREAS, the City's Emergency Notification System allows users to sign up in Spanish and to receive emergency alerts in Spanish as well; and

WHEREAS, the Long Beach Response App, which provides users with valuable City information and which is available for free through I-Tunes and Google Play for all smart phone users, can be translated to the default language set on an individual's smart phone, for example, a resident can report an issue in Spanish and the City will receive it translated into English and the City's response will be translated back into Spanish;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Long Beach, New York that the following Language Access Policy for the City of Long Beach is hereby adopted:

Language Access Policy:

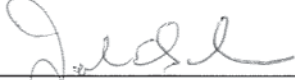
The staff of the City of Long Beach must take reasonable steps to provide language assistance services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals. LEP individuals are defined as persons who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English.

This policy is based on the principle that it is the responsibility of the City of Long Beach and not the LEP individual, to take reasonable steps to ensure that communications between a City department and the LEP individual are not impaired as a result of limited English proficiency of the individual.

The staff of the City of Long Beach must take reasonable steps to ensure communications with LEP individual is as effective as communications with others who are not LEP individuals, while providing similar services.

The staff of the City of Long Beach must take reasonable steps to provide oral and written language services to assist LEP individuals to communicate effectively, providing vital documents which are paper or electronic written material that contain information that is critical for accessing City programs or activities, and to provide LEP individuals with meaningful access to, and an equal opportunity to participate fully in, the services, activities and other programs administered by the City of Long Beach.

APPROVED:



City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM & LEGALITY:



Corporation Counsel

VOTING:

- Council Member Adelson - ABSENT
- Council Member Eramo - AYE
- Council Member Goggin - ABSENT
- Council Member Mandel - AYE
- President Torres - AYE