

**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**

**UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

This Letter of Agreement (“LOA”) is entered into by the Office of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles (“Office of the Mayor”) and United States 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**, over four million people live in the City of Los Angeles, forty-nine percent of whom are immigrants coming from more than 140 countries and speaking 224 languages;

**WHEREAS**, approximately 2.5 million Californians are currently eligible to become United States citizens with an additional 800,000 who are expected to become eligible by 2011;

**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 Americans succeed.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED THAT:**

- I. The parties agree that there is a need in Los Angeles to continue to provide accurate and frequent information about the citizenship 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 develop and implement an educational outreach campaign to promote and highlight the benefits of becoming a United States citizen to residents of the City of Los Angeles;
- II. The Parties recognize that the distribution of accurate and current information regarding the naturalization process is a critical element of successfully promoting citizenship awareness to the eligible population. Therefore, the Parties will work together to jointly co-sponsor a series of naturalization information sessions through the USCIS Naturalization Test and Citizenship Awareness, Education, and Outreach Initiative, including one session specifically for employees of the City of Los Angeles and their family members who are interested in pursuing citizenship. These information sessions shall be based on USCIS information resources. The Office of the Mayor will make available municipal facilities for these naturalization information sessions;
- III. The City, through its numerous public contact offices, libraries, recreation centers and other facilities, regularly comes into contact with City residents who are eligible or will soon become eligible 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;
- IV. Among immigrant communities and in immigrant families, there is a tremendous value placed on education. As such, educational settings present a great opportunity to distribute information on citizenship. Therefore, the Office of the Mayor will develop and implement an educational outreach campaign, based on USCIS educational materials, to promote and highlight the benefits of becoming a United States citizen targeted specifically to the parents of students in the public schools, including the Partnership Schools for Los Angeles, and attendees of adult education centers in the City of Los Angeles, and the Office of the Mayor will use its contacts within the public education system to facilitate these efforts;
- V. The parties recognize that the community of immigrants in the City of Los Angeles eligible 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;


- VI. 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, where legally appropriate and to the extent that resources permit;
- VII. The parties recognize that successful immigrant integration can be measured in both intangible and tangible ways, including tracking the number of attendees at naturalization information sessions and other outreach 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. This LOA does not create any enforceable legal obligation on either Party.

This LOA is intended as a pilot initiative. USCIS will evaluate this LOA in order to determine whether it may be replicated in other jurisdictions.

This LOA will remain in effect for two (2) years from the date of final signature or until terminated by mutual agreement or by either Party upon thirty (30) days advanced written notice to the other Party.

This LOA is effective as of the 28th day of January, 2010.

  
ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor  
City of Los Angeles

  
ALEJANDRO N. MAYORKAS  
Director  
United States Citizenship  
and Immigration Services

January 27, 2010  
Date

JANUARY 26, 2010  
Date