

MOTION

BUDGET & FINANCE

The City of Los Angeles is home to nearly 4,000,000 residents, many of whom are immigrants who speak languages other than English as their primary language or who have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). According to the most recent census count—which likely undercounted these populations—58.3% of the City’s residents sometimes or always speak a language other than English at home.

The City Council has taken many steps to remove the language barriers that exist in accessing City services. Some of these steps include the expansion of languages available through the City’s MyLA311 app and automated translation services for the City’s websites.

The City also currently provides live Spanish interpreting services for all City Council meetings to enable monolingual Spanish speakers to participate in these important civic meetings, which are the heart of our City government.

City Council Committee meetings, however, are not available to the public in Spanish—or any other language apart from English. Though interpretation services can be requested by committee chairs with 72 hours advanced notice, non-English-speaking members of the public who call in to share their views and experiences with their elected representatives are often left speaking to an audience who is unable to understand them because their comments are not translated into English. And even if interpretation services are requested in advance of a meeting, they only cover public comments made in other languages; the content of the remainder of the meeting is never able to be interpreted into Spanish or any other language.

Given the importance of the civic business that is discussed in City Council Committee meetings and the great number of Angelenos who are left in the dark about what is being discussed in these meetings, the City should ensure that, at a minimum, live Spanish interpreting services are offered by default for all City Council Committee meetings. According to the American Community Survey’s 2019 5-Year Estimate, 35% of households in the City of Los Angeles speak Spanish at home. This is a very significant portion of the City’s total population, and monolingual Spanish speakers and those who have Limited English Proficiency deserve access to these important policy discussions.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Clerk with the assistance of the Information Technology Agency, and any other relevant departments, to report back within 60 days with recommendations to expand live interpreting services to all City Council Committee meetings for the entirety of the meeting. The report should include:

APR 13 2022

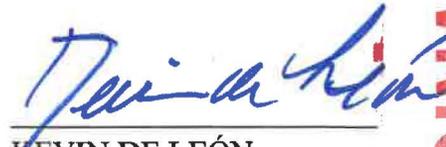


- A list of required software, technology, and hardware to facilitate the implementation of interpreting services for City Council Committee meetings virtually and in-person;
- Contracting options to address the shortage of interpreters able to offer in-person services; and
- Any additional funding and/or resources that will be needed to implement the expansion of interpreting services to all City Council Committee meetings.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District



KEVIN DE LEÓN
Councilmember, th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL