



City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

July 19, 2011
New Business Consent

**SUBJECT: CONSIDER REQUESTING THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE IN LOS ANGELES
PROVIDE ON-SITE SERVICES IN THE CITY OF CARSON ON A REGULAR BASIS**

Submitted by Clifford W. Graves
Interim City Manager

Approved by Clifford W. Graves
Interim City Manager

I. SUMMARY

On July 5, 2011, the City Council added this matter to the July 19, 2011 City Council agenda to consider this resolution.

Carson is home to thousands of Filipino-Americans. Many of those Filipino-Americans are senior citizens who do not have the means of getting to the Los Angeles office for basic services such as passport services, Philippine visas and other legal documents and other services. It has been proposed to request the Philippine Consulate to open a field office in Carson for basic services. Tonight the City Council is asked to refer this matter to the City Council Policy sub-committee for review.

II. RECOMMENDATION

REFER this matter to the City Council Policy Sub-committee.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

It has been proposed to request the Philippine Consulate to open a field office in Carson for basic services. The proposal includes the city providing a room in the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center should the Philippine Consulate agree to open a field office in Carson (Exhibit No. 1). City staff contacted the Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon for her support and comments. Should the City Council refer this matter to the Policy Sub-committee, the Consul General will be invited to participate at that meeting.

Many Filipino-Americans residing in Carson are senior citizens who do not have the means of getting to the Los Angeles office for basic services such as passport services, Philippine visas, and other legal documents and services. At this time the City Council is asked to refer this matter to the Policy sub-committee for further discussion.

It is noteworthy to mention that Congresswoman Richardson currently has a field office in the City Manager's office in City Hall and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays. Congressional staff is tasked with working as a liaison between the various Consulate offices on issues such as visas and immigration.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None at this time.

VI. EXHIBITS

- 1. Draft Resolution. (pgs. 3-4)

Document2

Prepared by: Lisa Berglund, Principal Admin. Analyst

TO:Rev032811

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	<u>City Treasurer</u>
<u>Administrative Services</u>	<u>Development Services</u>
<u>Economic Development Services</u>	<u>Public Services</u>

Action taken by City Council	
Date _____	Action _____

DRAFT RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE PROVIDE CERTAIN CONSULAR SERVICES AT AN ON-SITE LOCATION IN THE CITY OF CARSON

WHEREAS, the City of Carson is home to thousands of Filipino-Americans and Filipino immigrants, who regularly need to have passports renewed and consular documents authenticated;

WHEREAS, the greater "South Bay" area is home to thousands more Filipino residents, many of whom reside in the neighboring cities of Long Beach, Bellflower, Compton, Lawndale and Hawthorne, Palos Verdes, El Segundo, Norwalk, Cerritos and Signal Hill;

WHEREAS, it is difficult for a number of these residents to travel to the downtown Los Angeles location of the Philippine Consulate, which is located approximately 20 miles from the City of Carson, particularly those who are seniors and can no longer drive or have various other mobility and health challenges;

WHEREAS, the City of Carson desires to alleviate the difficulty and inconvenience these residents have to go through every time they renew their passports and/or authenticate consular documents;

NOW, THEREFORE, the CITY COUNCIL of the CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE and ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Carson hereby directs staff to prepare a letter, for the signature of the Mayor, formally requesting that certain consular services, to with, the provision of on-site Philippine passport renewal and consular document authorization ("consular services"), be provided locally and free-of-charge in the City of Carson for the benefit of the residents of Carson and its surrounding municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council further directs staff to identify what local facilities might be available on a monthly basis to provide such consular services, with the ideal primary location for the same being the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center at Carson.

EXHIBIT NO. 01

[MORE]



PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this ____ day of July, 2011.

ATTEST:

Mayor Jim Dear

City Clerk, Helen S. Kawagoe, MMC

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

