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Council Adds Matricula Consular to Acceptable Hotel Check-in ID

By unanimous vote, the Los Angeles City Council allowed hotels and motels to accept consulate-issued identification as a valid form of IDs for check-in. Council President Eric Garcetti and Councilmember José Huizar introduced the original motion in May 2007, to bring the city's hotel-motel ordinance in line with the city's own policies governing acceptable ID for use in city facilities. The City Attorney has now provided official ordinance language that can be adopted into law in approximately 30 days.

"Los Angeles can provide safety and welcome at the same time," said Council President Garcetti. "For the sake of foreign visitors, immigrant Angelenos, and small business owners, the same *matricula* consular the city recognizes for library cards should be acceptable for checking into a hotel room."

"It is important that we make the City as hospitable as possible. With the use of the *matricula* more people will now have the option to stay in a hotel in Los Angeles, and that's good for our economy," said Councilmember Huizar.

Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 41.49 requires that guests show ID to rent a room at a hotel or motel when they walk in without a reservation, rent the room for less than 12 hours or pay cash at check-in. These regulations were designed to help prevent hotels and motels from being used for nuisance activity such as prostitution and drug dealing, but they did not originally include the *matricula consular* as valid ID.

"I would like to thank the City Council for supporting us on this issue of allowing guests carrying consular IDs to be able to rent a room in Los Angeles," said Ray Patel, the president of the North East Los Angeles Hotel Owners Association. "This will make life easier for the mom-and-pop immigrant-owned small businesses that Los Angeles depends upon."

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