



NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
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7TH DISTRICT



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PADILLA SUPPORTS AMENDMENTS TO PATRIOT ACT

Civil Liberties Restoration Act pending in House, Senate would protect privacy of American citizens, restrict unnecessary interrogations of visitors

LOS ANGELES – Council President Alex Padilla introduced a motion today that calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to officially endorse the Civil Liberties Restoration Act of 2004.

The Civil Liberties Restoration Act (CLRA), H.R.4591 (Berman) and S.2528 (Kennedy), seeks to return oversight to the American legal system and to implement safeguards in PATRIOT Act provisions.

“Just as every American must be vigilant in our nation’s efforts to fight terrorism, our government must be equally vigilant in ensuring that our Bill of Rights is upheld for all,” said Council President Padilla. “The Civil Liberties Restoration Act will once again guarantee that the list of books we check out the library are kept private, and that our most basic legal rights are preserved in the very spirit of our nation’s founding fathers.”

The CLRA does not repeal the PATRIOT Act, nor does it restrict the ability of government agencies to share information in a cooperative manner.

The CLRA’s major provisions include:

- Restricting the Attorney General’s use of personal library records to those of the agent of a foreign power
- Ensuring that a summary evidence obtained in searches and seizures be provided to a defendant’s attorneys
- Restricting the mining of personal data from private and public databases
- Terminating the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System tracking program, which requires men ages 16 and over from certain nations to be fingerprinted, photographed, and interrogated with no specific cause
- Permitting closure of immigration court hearings on a case-by-case basis to protect national security

Padilla’s motion will appear before the City Council on July 23.

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The 7th Council District serves the communities of Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, Pacoima, Panorama City, and Sylmar.