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Council Adds *Matricula Consular* to Hotel Check-in IDs

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 to bring the city's hotel-motel ordinance in line with the city's own policies governing acceptable ID for use in city facilities.

“Los Angeles is a global crossroads,” said Council President Garcetti. “It’s right and proper that the same *matricula consular* that you can use to open a bank account or get a library card be acceptable to check into a hotel room.”

“It’s just common sense that we make our laws friendly to our visitors and to the businesses that serve them,” 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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