



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

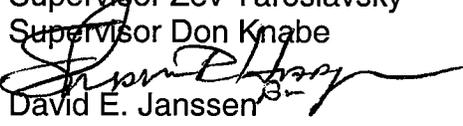
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

January 3, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD ANNUAL REVIEW

On February 8, 2005, your Board adopted an amendment to the policy regarding the acceptance of Foreign Consulate Identification Cards (FCICs) as valid photo identification, clarifying the types of reliable identifying information required to obtain such cards. In addition, your Board instructed this Office to coordinate with all foreign consulates participating in the FCIC Program in order to further develop training that will assist County employees to properly authenticate FCICs; and continue monitoring the outcomes of the FCIC Program and report back its findings to your Board in one year. In accordance with your Board's instructions, the following is the annual review and a summary of all activities relative to FCICs.

Training

In February 2005, this Office distributed a memorandum to all Department Heads on the amended FCIC policy and Fact Sheets on identification cards issued by foreign consulates currently participating in the FCIC Program (Mexico and Argentina). In addition, this memorandum contained contact information within this Office to request the decoders provided by the Mexican Consulate for their FCIC (Matricula Consular) to assist staff in identifying the card's security features.

On July 13, 2005, the first in series of training sessions on FCICs was held in accordance with your Board's instructions. This training session featured the Matricula Consular issued by the Mexican Consulate and was well attended by staff from the Sheriff's Department, Coroner, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Health Services, Public Library, Probation Department, Fire Department, Department of Community and Senior Services, and Department of Mental Health. The training, which was jointly facilitated by staff of this Office, as well as the Mexican Consulate, included an overview of your Board's policy on the acceptance of FCICs, identification of the security features associated with the Matricula Consular, and instruction on how to use the "decoder" card as a tool to identify embedded security features in order to properly authenticate the Matricula Consular identification card.

On August 25, 2005, the Mexican Consulate and staff from this Office provided additional training for the Department of Children and Family Services. This Office continues to work with the Mexican and Argentinean Consulates in an ongoing effort to coordinate training for County departments on FCICs, although efforts to schedule training on the Argentinean Consulate identification card has thus far been unsuccessful.

Annual Review - Summary

In October 2005, the CAO distributed the Annual Foreign Consulate Identification Card Review Survey to all County departments in order to: 1) determine with what frequency and in association with which services have FCICs been presented, 2) determine if there have been problems identified with accepting FCICs as a form of photo identification, and 3) solicit suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the FCIC Policy. The attached provides a matrix of all responses from the departments. Thirteen departments indicated they have been presented with FCICs. As noted, some departments have indicated a need for additional training, and this Office will work with the affected consulates to ensure it is provided. While some comments suggest that the FCICs are difficult to authenticate, we believe that the security features reflected in these cards, consistent with acceptance criteria adopted by your Board, are comparable with those of other key forms of identification, including drivers' licenses and State ID cards.

The following are highlights from departmental responses:

- **Children and Family Services (DCFS)** – Mexican Consulate IDs have been presented in conjunction with Live Scan, Adoptions, the Special Immigrant Status Unit, and with the Independent Living program, as well. Although, DCFS does not currently track the usage of FCICs, it was reported that the most important feature of the FCIC is that it allows members of a child's extended family to participate as a resource family; an important aspect of promoting permanence for a child.

- **District Attorney (DA)** – One investigator assigned to the Justice System Integrity Unit reported being presented with Mexican Consulate ID card and expressed reluctance to accept the FCIC as a form of photo identification based on a perceived difficulty in authenticating the card. This Office has contacted the DA's office in order to provide Matricula Consular decoder cards, as well as to coordinate staff training on the card's security features.
- **Health Services (DHS)** – Mexican and Argentinean Consulate ID cards were presented as a form of photo identification and to verify patient addresses at County Hospitals, Comprehensive Health Centers, and Health Centers by patients and to verify their addresses during visits to emergency rooms, urgent care, walk-in clinics, and in conjunction with other services. It was reported that sometimes the addresses on the ID cards differ from those reported by the patients. FCIC training is incorporated in the training for Patient Identification and Address Verification provided to DHS facility staff by Revenue Management's Eligibility and Provider Services.
- **Public Library** – The Public Library accepts Mexican and Argentinean Consulate ID cards as photo identification to obtain a County Public Library card. There are currently 3,843 borrowers in the Library's database who presented a FCIC as identification. Since the inception of the FCIC Program in Los Angeles County, 3,159 borrowers have borrowed 132,928 items. No problems have been identified with accepting FCICs.
- **Probation Department** – FCICs have been presented primarily in conjunction with establishing the identification of parents/guardians who are: 1) visiting minor children at juvenile halls and camps, 2) picking up juveniles who are released from these facilities, and 3) making field office visits with juvenile probationers. In addition, these cards have been used by adult probationers making field office visits, as well. The Department does not gather data specific to the use of FCICs, but it has been determined that the use of FCICs is infrequent. There have been no problems identified as a result of accepting FCICs, but it was reported that training is required to assist staff in properly authenticating these cards. One representative from the Probation Department attended the FCIC training session on July 13, 2005. This Office has contacted the Probation Department regarding this issue and will ensure that additional training is provided.

- **Sheriff's Department** – FCICs have been presented in conjunction with calls-for-service, traffic and pedestrian stops, visiting, and general public contact. Although the Sheriff does not gather specific data on the number and type (Mexican or Argentinean) of FCICs presented, it is estimated, based upon an informal poll of the patrol stations that more than 100 FCICs have been presented as identification – a 60 percent increase over last year. Due to infrequent contact, additional training is required to assist law enforcement officers to authenticate these cards. The Sheriff's Department has distributed a Department newsletter that describes the FCIC to assist personnel with recognizing authentic FCICs. In addition, the Mexican Consulate has agreed to attend station briefings to train personnel on the security features of their FCIC.

Additional Requests for Consulate Identification Card Acceptance

In November 2005, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea submitted a formal request to the County of Los Angeles seeking approval for the acceptance of its consulate identification card. The Korean Consulate anticipates that it will offer the card to Korean citizens beginning in early 2006. In October 2005, the City of Los Angeles authorized all City departments to accept the Republic of Korea FCIC for identification purposes for City programs and services.

This Office, in close consultation with the Sheriff's Department, is currently reviewing the Korean Consulate ID card to determine if it meets the minimum criteria required to be accepted by the County of Los Angeles. In accordance with the FCIC policy, we will notify your Board if it is established that this card satisfies the necessary requirements for approval and will provide you with adequate time to place the matter on a Board Agenda, if so desired.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this memorandum or require additional information, please call me or your staff may call Angie Gentry of this Office at (213) 974-1197.

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Attachment (1)

c: All Department Heads

FOREIGN CONSULATE IDENTIFICATION CARD ANNUAL SURVEY

2005

Department	Has your department been presented w/ FCICs as a form or photo ID?			If so, in conjunction with what services or activities was the FCIC presented?			If your department has been presented with the FCIC, does your department have any information on the amount of use?		Has your department identified any problems with accepting FCIC as valid photo identification?			Does your department have any suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the FCIC Policy?	
	Mexican ID		Argentine ID						Mexican ID		Argentine ID		
	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Affirmative Action Compliance		X								X			No
Agricultural Comm./Weights and Measures		X								X			No
Alternate Public Defender		X								X			No
Animal Care and Control	X				Animal adoptions/return of lost animals/issuance of animal licenses.			The Mexican Consulate ID card is presented on the average of 2-3 times per month.		X			No
Assessor		X								X			No
Auditor-Controller		X								X			No
Beaches and Harbors		X								X			No
Board of Supervisors, Executive Office		X								X			No
Chief Administrative Office		X								X			No
Chief Information Office		X								X			No
Child Support Services					Mainly used as identification in requests for case closure, mistaken identification, interviews and service of Summons and Complaints.			While the Mexican FCIC has been presented frequently, the Argentinean FCIC has been presented twice.				X	State law prohibits the Department from processing Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) petitions for customers using FCICs as a form of identification. The UIFSA assists custodial parents with obtaining child support orders or enforcing existing orders outside of the State of California.
Children and Family Services	X				The FCIC is used for identification of relative caretakers of dependent children placed through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), Live Scan, Special Immigration Status unit, adoptions and the Independent Living Program (ILP).			DCFS does not have a system to track the use of the FCIC.				X	The most important feature of the FCIC is that it allows members of a child's extended family (many of them undocumented) to participate as a resource family, an important aspect of promoting permanence for a child.

Department	Has your department been presented w/ FCICs as a form or photo ID?				If so, in conjunction with what services or activities was the FCIC presented?	If your department has been presented with the FCIC, does your department have any information on the amount of use?				Has your department identified any problems with accepting FCIC as valid photo identification?				Does your department have any suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the FCIC Policy?	
	Mexican ID		Argentine ID			Mexican ID		Argentine ID		Mexican ID		Argentine ID			
	YES	NO	YES	NO		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Community Development Commission	X				X										FCICs are useful as identification for individuals lacking documentation.
Community and Senior Services			X												No
Consumer Affairs	X				Consumer Services Division; related to the distribution of checks for claims settlement.										No
Coroner	X				Establishing identification as legal next of kin to claim decedents and decedent's personal property.										No
County Counsel			X												No
District Attorney					During the course of an investigation and when conducting interviews.										No
Fire	X														One investigator suggested that the FCIC not be accepted because of the need to have access to the decoders or contact the Mexican Consulate for authentication. One DA Investigator witnessed the sale of fake FCICs in MacArthur Park and believes the cards may increase identity theft based on the difficulty verifying the information. [Decoders and training will be provided.]
Health Services			X		Los Angeles County Health Centers, Comprehensive Health Centers, and hospitals have been presented w/Mexican and Argentine Consulate IDs. The ID cards are presented at the time of registration to identify patients and verify addresses for emergency rooms; urgent care; walk in clinics; and Adult, Pediatric and various other services.										It would be helpful if the State of California would provide information as to the validity of using the identification cards when applying for governmental programs.
Human Relations Commission			X												No
Human Resources			X												No
DHR/Office of Public Safety			X												No
Internal Services			X												No

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	Mexican ID		Argentine ID			YES	NO	YES	NO	Mexican ID		Argentine ID			If so, please explain.
	YES	NO	YES	NO						YES	NO	YES	NO		
Mental Health		X					X			X				No	
Military and Veterans Affairs		X					X			X				No	
Museum of Art		X					X			X				No	
Museum of Natural History		X					X			X				No	
Ombudsman		X					X			X				No	
Parks and Recreation		X					X			X				No	
Probation					As identification for parents/guardians visiting a minor or at the time of a minor's release; also used by parents/guardians of juvenile probationers or adult probationers making office visits, and presented to Special Enforcement Unit staff working in the field in conjunction with law enforcement agencies.									Training would be beneficial. [Additional training will be provided.]	
Public Defender		X												No	
Public Library					The card is accepted as photo identification to obtain a County Public Library card. Library services requiring a library card include checking out library materials, requesting library materials and use of the internet.									The Annual Survey allows libraries to review the FCIC program with the Community Library managers.	
Public Social Services		X			As a form of photo identification in conjunction with CalWORKs, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CAPI, General Relief and Refugee programs. *Note: possession of a FCIC does not entitle the bearer to services for which he/she would otherwise be ineligible.									No	
Public Works		X												No	
Regional Planning		X												No	

Department	Has your department been presented w/ FCICs as a form or photo ID?			If so, in conjunction with what services or activities was the FCIC presented?			If your department has been presented with the FCIC, does your department have any information on the amount of use?			Has your department identified any problems with accepting FCIC as valid photo identification?			Does your department have any suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding the FCIC Policy?
	Mexican ID		Argentine ID	Mexican ID		Argentine ID	Mexican ID		Argentine ID	Mexican ID		Argentine ID	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk	X			X						X			No
Sheriff	X										X		It is difficult to determine the validity and authenticity of such cards. The Department has distributed a newsletter to assist personnel with recognizing authentic FCICs, and has made an agreement with the Mexican Consulate to provide additional training on their ID card.
Superior Court		X								X			No
Treasurer and Tax Collector		X								X			No